

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

SELECTION EXAMINATION FOR POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN
HEALTH SECTOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT – DECEMBER 2020

Date:- 16th December 2020

Time:- 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

STRUCTURED ESSAY QUESTION PAPER

Answer **all five (05)** questions.

Answer each question in a separate book.

1. Majority of the disasters occurring in Sri Lanka are rain and weather related (of hydro-meteorological origin).
 - 1.1. List five (05) disasters of hydro-meteorological origin you would expect in different parts of the island in relation to the annual weather pattern of the country. (25 marks)
 - 1.2. Describe briefly the actions taken to prevent and mitigate the effects of floods in Sri Lanka. (25 marks)
 - 1.3. List five (05) health effects of droughts in Sri Lanka. (25 marks)
 - 1.4. Discuss the actions that can be taken to mitigate the health effects due to droughts. (25 marks)
2. A COVID-19 cluster has been identified in a locality following a mass gathering at a religious place in an area where you are the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) of the relevant area.
 - 2.1. Briefly describe the health response you implement to control this. (30 marks)
 - 2.2. List five (05) non-health organizations that you would get involved in your control activities. (10 marks)
 - 2.3. Discuss the role of Epidemiology Unit in the COVID-19 pandemic response in Sri Lanka. (30 marks)
 - 2.4. State the advantages and disadvantages of quarantining persons at their home vs at designated institutions in COVID-19 response in Sri Lanka. (30 marks)

Contd..../2-

3. There has been a multiple vehicle high speed crash involving 21 vehicles on a Monday morning at 8.00 a.m. due to a luxury bus carrying foreigners going out of control in the Southern Expressway between Gelanigama and Dodangoda interchanges towards Colombo. There has been a storm with heavy rain at the time of the incident.

3.1. List ten (10) aspects need to be addressed when responding to the above disaster. (30 marks)

3.2. Describe briefly how the above aspects are addressed effectively. (40 marks)

3.3. List five (05) suggestions to minimise damage during a similar disaster in future. (30 marks)

4. An earthquake had occurred at Digana area and many people lost their homes. The plan is to house the displaced in a temporary camp. Digana Hospital is also damaged.

You are the Medical Officer of Health of the area.

4.1. List the main steps in initiating basic health services at the onset of this humanitarian crisis on maternal and child care. (40 marks)

4.2. List five (05) possible reasons for needing urgent and special care for each of the following groups in the displaced community. (30 marks)

4.2.1. Women

4.2.2. Pregnant women

4.2.3. Children

- 4.3. One section of the temporary camp had to be retained in the fourth week after the earthquake due to logistical reasons. Some inmates in this section have developed suicidal thoughts.

Discuss the measures you will suggest. (30 marks)

5. A 25-year-old man is admitted to a peripheral unit following a road traffic accident.

Intravenous co-amoxiclav is being administered by a junior nursing officer to a heavily contaminated wound as instructed. While administering, the patient complains of feeling faintish and difficulty in breathing.

His pulse rate is 130/minute and blood pressure is 70/40 mmHg.

- 5.1. What is the probable diagnosis? (10 marks)
- 5.2. What other causes would give rise to these signs and symptoms in this patient? (20 marks)
- 5.3. What other signs and symptoms would support the diagnosis of 5.1? (30 marks)
- 5.4. How would you manage this situation? (40 marks)

