

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTH SECTOR DISASTER
MANAGEMENT – APRIL 2023

Date: 25th April 2023

Time: 1.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.

STRUCTURED ESSAY QUESTION PAPER (SEQ)

Answer all five (05) questions.

Each question to be answered in a separate book.

1. A fuel carrying train has derailed near the Maho railway station. This has resulted in one of the train carriages exploding causing many casualties. You are the medical officer in-charge of the Emergency Department of the nearby hospital and tasked with preparing the hospital for managing patients. As per the initial information, several blast injury victims are expected to arrive.
 - 1.1. Categorize the types of injuries due to the blast stating the mechanism. (20 marks)
 - 1.2. State five (05) specific pieces of information that first responders would share with the emergency services about this disaster? (15 marks)
 - 1.3. Outline three (03) differences between emergency department triage and disaster site triage. (15 marks)
 - 1.4. Briefly state how you will prepare your hospital emergency department to anticipate the influx of patients? (50 marks)
2. Prepare parental/caregiver health information fact sheets for the following situations during a disaster.
 - 2.1. Substance abuse prevention among adolescents. (30 marks)
 - 2.2. Prevention of child abuse of children with single parents. (35 marks)
 - 2.3. Prevention of malnutrition among children aged 5 to 10 years. (35 marks)

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3. Sri Lanka is currently going through the worst socioeconomic crisis after independence. As a result, healthcare workers have to deal with people victimized by various types of problems.
 - 3.1. List five (05) such problems, stating related medicolegal issues for each problem that you have to manage in the affected victims. (30 marks)
 - 3.2. Discuss five (05) psychosocial issues attached with this situation and your role as a healthcare worker in facilitating mental wellbeing. (40 marks)
 - 3.3. Describe the role of a field healthcare worker in making society aware of these issues and preventing it. (30 marks)
4. There have been reports of earthquakes or tremors in some parts of Sri Lanka recently.
 - 4.1. According to classification of earthquakes, what is the type of earthquake Sri Lanka is liable to face? (10 marks)
 - 4.2. List five (05) injuries you would expect in casualties after an earthquake. (10 marks)
 - 4.3. Describe the action to be taken by first responders in responding to an earthquake in the immediate and short-term periods. (40 marks)
 - 4.4. Discuss mitigation measures that can be adopted to face earthquakes in future in Sri Lanka. (40 marks)
5. Describe briefly the following topics.
 - 5.1. Role played by the United Nations (UN) agencies in managing disasters in Sri Lanka. (25 marks)
 - 5.2. Importance of human resource capacity building for managing disasters. (25 marks)
 - 5.3. Different sources of funding for health sector disaster management. (25 marks)
 - 5.4. Risk communication in disasters. (25 marks)