

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTH SECTOR DISASTER
MANAGEMENT EXAMINATION – MARCH 2026

Date:- 25th March 2026

Time:- 9.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon

STRUCTURED ESSAY QUESTION PAPER (SEQ)

Answer all five (05) questions.

1. An increasing number of disasters related to floods have been recently reported in Sri Lanka.
 - 1.1. List five (05) common public health risks following floods. (10 marks)
 - 1.2. Outline the role of the Public Health Midwife in addressing health risks following floods. (30 marks)
 - 1.3. Outline public health interventions to prevent and/ or control malnutrition immediately following floods. (40 marks)
 - 1.4. Outline the methods and tools available for monitoring the nutritional status among children under 5 years in the aftermath of floods. (20 marks)
2. A ship caught fire and sank off the coast of Colombo releasing hazardous liquid and gaseous chemicals into the surrounding waters and coastal area. The incident led to widespread environmental contamination, threats to marine life, and potential health risks for communities living along the affected coastline.
 - 2.1. Describe the immediate actions that should be taken to manage the chemical disaster and protect public health in the Sri Lankan context. (25 marks)
 - 2.2. Discuss the roles of the following emergency response agencies following this incident. (25 marks)

Disaster Management Centre (DMC)
Sri Lanka Navy
Sri Lanka Police
Health services
Environmental authorities

Contd..../2-

- 2.3. As the medical officer in charge of disaster management in Colombo district, state four (04) important messages you would give to the coastal communities. (20 marks)
- 2.4. Outline long-term strategies Sri Lanka can implement to prevent and mitigate similar maritime chemical incidents in the future. (30 marks)
3. A torpedo attack to an Iranian ship in Sri Lankan waters has caused a lot of deaths and casualties to its crew. Sri Lanka has decided to rescue the crew on international humanitarian principles.
- 3.1. Briefly describe the precautions the rescue team needs to consider when rescuing the crew from the site. (35 marks)
- 3.2. Explain the actions to be taken on the rescued sailors. (20 marks)
- 3.3. Discuss the medico legal issues to be addressed regarding the dead. (45 marks)
4. Cyclone Ditwah resulted in heavy rains and many earth slides across Sri Lanka.
- 4.1. Discuss the psychosocial implications of the disaster for the affected families. (30 marks)
- 4.2. Discuss the measures to minimize short-term and long-term psychosocial implications of similar incidents. (40 marks)
- 4.3. Describe the steps taken to address the issue of missing people. (30 marks)
5. Write short notes on the following
- 5.1. Health effects of climate change (25 marks)
- 5.2. Rehabilitation and reintegration of disaster survivors (25 marks)
- 5.3. SPHERE Standards (25 marks)
- 5.4. Role of preparedness in managing disasters (25 marks)