



Master of Science in Environmental Science

Final Examination (2018/2019)  
NEP1210 / MHP9504: Environment, Society and Development  
(Open Book Test)

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Date: 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Time: 13:30 hrs. – 16:30 hrs.

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Please answer a total of **FOUR** questions only from the seven questions given below. Answer at least one question from **Section A**. Start each answer on a separate answer book. Mark your registration number and the question number clearly on each answer book. Make sure that you submit **four** answer books.

Please **DO NOT** copy directly from a text. If you have to quote, please do so within inverted commas.

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**Section A**

**Q1.** What are the main features of the sustainable development approach? Using examples, discuss the difficulties in ensuring adherence to the values of sustainability when implementing development projects. (100 marks)

**Q2.** Discuss the history of the concept of development and assess the relationship between global politics and development, using examples. (100 marks)

**Section B**

**Q3.** During 1990s the attitude of Sri Lankan engineers towards renewable energy sources was a hostile one. The general mood among them was to favour coal. The following excerpt from the lecture delivered by Engineer Carlo Fernando, former power development consultant Ceylon Electricity Board, at the seminar on "Coal Power: Are there any alternatives?" held by the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka on 8 July, 2000, provides an example for this.

“Satisfied with the preliminary studies, the then CEB Chairman, N. A. J. Perera made arrangements to get a comprehensive feasibility study done. Then suddenly well planned protests erupted. I find that there are elements of perversity and cussedness in these obstructive campaigns. The most disgusting anti coal protests were made by the educated which were given wide publicity in the newspapers and poisoned the minds of the entire nation. You can fathom the extent of the misinformation campaign carried out at that time. It misled President Premadasa and the letter from the Presidential Secretariat ordering the work on Mawella (coal power plant) to be stopped”

Argue with examples that the world has changed during the last two decades in favour of renewable energy sources. (100 marks)

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**Q4.** Can anthropocentrism be used as a possible approach to protect environment? Discuss critically using examples. (100 marks)

**Q5. a)** Describe the two terms “negative externalities” and “positive externalities”. (30 marks)

b) Discuss the relationship of negative externalities of conventional energy sources with fast depletion of conventional energy reserves and with global warming. (70 marks)

**Q6.** The American economist Victor Lebow seems to have predicted the nature of contemporary society more than half a century ago.

"Our enormously productive economy... demands that we make consumption our way of life, that we convert the buying and use of goods into rituals, that we seek our spiritual satisfaction, our ego satisfaction, in consumption... we need things consumed, burned up, replaced and discarded at an ever-accelerating rate"

- Victor Lebow, 1955

Discuss in detail,

a) the consequences of such a consumerist society like the one we see today. (50 marks)

b) the ways of transforming such a society to a sustainable one. (50 marks)

**Q7.** Social movements play an important role in deciding the kind of development a country is going to achieve. They bring missing dimensions to the development plan already designed by social elites. In a third world context, most of the social movements (e.g. movements to protect rights, to protect environment, etc.), however, are driven by foreign donor funding. Argue both in favour and against such social movements. (100 marks)

END

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