

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA  
M.A. IN TEACHER EDUCATION - PART II  
FINAL EXAMINATION 2008  
ESP 2255 – CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN EDUCATION



DURATION: THREE (03) HOURS

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DATE: 31<sup>st</sup> May 2008

TIME: 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

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Answer only three Questions. Each answer should be given in a Separate Book.

01. i. Critically examine the contribution of the following decisions for the assurance of democratization of education in Sri Lanka:
- All should be provided education free of charge.
  - The responsibility of providing education should lie with the state.
  - Education should be provided in the mother tongue.
02. “It is important to emphasize that often social disadvantage which gives rise to inequity is further exacerbated by inequities which operate in the education system. While teachers may not be in a position to eliminate such inequities totally, they can contribute to the reduction of these inequities. Awareness of the issues that continue to hamper the achievement of equity in education to lead to democratization, gender equality and a lessening of marginalization and exclusion can go a long way towards the achievement of these desirable objectives”
- Examine the above statement, and
- i. Discuss the multifaceted nature of the issue of equity in education. (11 marks)
- ii. Explain why education is a right that needs to be guaranteed to all and identify the factors that continue to obstruct assurance of this right with special reference to Sri Lanka. (11 marks)
- iii. Suggest measures that could be implemented at school level in Sri Lanka to ensure the achievement of equity in education. (11 marks)

03. i. Define the term "Quality" (05 marks)
- ii. Examine by citing examples how you perceive the assurance of quality as a problem in Sri Lankan education system. (13 marks)
- iii. Describe strategies which you could use as a teacher educator to minimize the problem. (15 marks)
04. i. Define the terms 'plural societies' and 'multi-cultural education' (08 marks)
- ii. Examine the importance of introducing multi-cultural education in plural societies to promote national integration. (12 marks)
- iii. Explain by citing examples the instructional strategies which the teacher could use at classroom level to promote national integration within a plural society. (13 marks)
05. i. How would you define 'Globalization'? (05 marks)
- ii. Name five significant effects of globalization in Sri Lanka. (10 marks)
- iii. Explain how globalization has led to changes in education in Sri Lanka. (10 marks)
- iv. Propose and describe three strategies that can help Sri Lankan education to manage the effects of globalization without sacrificing the goal of equal educational opportunity. (08 marks)

06. “.....The world of tomorrow must be fundamentally different from the world we know. As we step into the new millennium we must strive to build a ‘sustainable future’..... harmony with our natural environment should be the watch words of this world to come.....”

(Fedrico Mayer, DG/ UNESCO 1999)

- i. What is meant by a ‘sustainable future’ with regard to natural environment?  
(08 marks)
- ii. Explain the major environmental issues emerging in the present world.  
(18 marks)
- iii. Discuss by citing examples where necessary the role of education in redesigning education policies and programmes to develop harmony with the natural environment  
(15 marks)

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