

Open University of Sri Lanka  
Masters Degree in Environmental Science  
Academic year 2011/2012  
Final Examination  
Course title – Understanding the Environment.  
Course code – NEP1205



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Date – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012

Time – 9.30 am -12.30 pm

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Answer any four (4) questions.

1. a) Describe the term “Environment”.  
b) Explain how the concept of environment has changed from ancient times up to now, indicating reasons for the change.  
c) Distinguish between the environmental impacts at global and local level of a named environmental problem.
  2. Explain the beneficial effects of organic matter on soil properties.
  3. “Water is an essential resource for living organisms but causes natural disasters ”  
Discuss this statement.
  4. a) Explain giving reasons the spatial variation observed in a undisturbed sandy beach plant community.  
b) What are ecotones?  
c) State the features of plant and animal species that will be found in ecotones.
  5. Explain the cycling of nitrogen in nature.
  6. Write an essay on rainforest ecosystems.
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