

Open University of Sri Lanka  
Post graduate Diploma in Environmental Science  
Academic year 2012/2013  
Final Examination  
Course title – Understanding the Environment  
Course code – NEP1301



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Date – 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2013

Time – 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

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**ANSWER ANY FOUR (4) QUESTIONS**

1. Describe in detail the types of food and feeding relationships found in a standing water ecosystem and explain the process of bio-magnification of pollutants in water.
2. Explain with suitable examples how the chemical structure of water has become biologically important for living organisms.
3. List the basic features of nutrient cycles and explain the natural processes that maintain nitrate ions ( $\text{NO}_3^-$ ) in soil.
4. Describe the natural environment of a tropical rainforest.
5. “Atmosphere plays a key role in sustaining life on earth” Explain this statement giving reasons.
6. Define the term “Population of organisms” and describe population density and population growth.
7. Write an essay on “Natural Disasters”.