

**Open University of Sri Lanka**  
**Masters Degree in Environmental Science**  
**Academic year 2012/2013**  
**Final Examination**  
**Course title – Understanding the Environment.**  
**Course code – NEP1205**



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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. Explain how microorganisms and organic matter contributes to soil fertility.
2. “Atmosphere plays a key role in sustaining life on earth” Explain this statement giving reasons.
3. Describe the basic features common to all nutrient cycles and comment on the human impacts on the Nitrogen cycle, Sulfur cycle and Phosphorus cycle.
4. Compare the physical structure of a terrestrial community and an aquatic community. Explain community succession that occurs on land in relation to the above.
5. Describe with suitable examples food and feeding relationships in ecosystems and explain how they influence ecosystem stability.
6. Write an essay on “Ocean waves and currents and their global impact”.