

Open University of Sri Lanka
Department of Zoology
Masters Degree in Environmental Science
Academic year 2013/2014
Level 6
Final Examination
Course title – Understanding the Environment
Course code – NEP1205



Date – 5th April 2014

Time – 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

ANSWER ANY FOUR (4) QUESTIONS

- 1) Compare a rainforest ecosystem and a paddy field ecosystem in terms of species richness, food and feeding relationships, inputs, outputs, ecosystem stability, aesthetic and economic value.
 - 2) Explain with suitable examples how some of the physical properties of water have become biologically important.
 - 3) Describe the composition of moist air and explain in detail how green house effect and ozone layer depletion occur in the atmosphere.
 - 4) Describe what is meant by the term “Biomes”. Comment on their distribution on earth and explain the major factors that cause this distribution.
 - 5) a) Explain in detail how microorganisms maintain Nitrate (NO_3^-), Sulphate (SO_4^{2-}) and Phosphate (PO_4^{3-}) nutrients in the soil.
b) Outline one adverse effect of excess phosphates on aquatic organisms.
 - 6) Write an essay on Natural Disasters.
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