

M.SC IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE – LEVEL 7

FINAL EXAMINATION 2016

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW – NEP 1207

DURATION – 3 HOURS



Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2016

Time: 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

Please make sure that your handwriting is legible.

It is an examination offence to have mobile phones and other electronic devices or unauthorized documents in your possession in the examination hall.

**ANSWER FOUR QUESTIONS ONLY (All questions carry equal marks)**

1. The Polluter Pays principle seeks to ensure that those who pollute and those who benefit from pollution bear the costs of environmental pollution.

Consider the various laws relating to pollution control in Sri Lanka and explain whether they are sufficient to address this problem? What recommendations would you make to ensure that polluters and others who benefit from pollution are held accountable for the costs of pollution?

2. "Sustainable development is a strategy by which to balance economic growth and environmental protection. However, in a developing country such as Sri Lanka the emphasis must be on economic growth."

Do you agree with this statement? Discuss giving reasons for your point of view.

3. The Highways Department of Utopia has decided to build a six lane highway from the capital city to the harbour which is 60 miles away. According to the project proposal the highway would be routed along a fairly populated area displacing about three hundred people. Several hundred acres of fertile agricultural land would be taken over for the highway. It would also pass within two miles of a wildlife sanctuary famous for its elephants. The elephants are known to roam in the areas surrounding the sanctuary. The original route was challenged in court and the court ordered the Highways Department to amend it in order avoid destroying an area of virgin forest. The amended route may now cause damage to an archaeological site. The amended route was not subject to a further EIA. The project approving agency has granted approval for the project.

Parisara Protectors, a non governmental organisation working on environmental issues wishes to challenge this project on the grounds that the requirements of an EIA report were not fulfilled.

You are required to prepare a brief advising them on this issue.

4. What benefit does Sri Lanka gain from signing the following Conventions?

- (a) Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal
- (b) Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
- (c) Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

5. *Poverty is one of the main causes of environmental degradation. Therefore alleviating poverty and providing people with their basic needs will greatly facilitate the goal of environmental conservation.*

Discuss this statement in relation to Sri Lanka. In your answer you should cite examples of current issues and problems. You should also discuss strategies to overcome poverty in such a way as to mitigate environmental harm.

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