

**POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT (PGDESD)**

Term-End Examination

December, 2006

**MED-001 : UNDERSTANDING THE
ENVIRONMENT**

Time : 2 hours

Maximum Marks : 50

Note : All questions are **compulsory**.

1. Answer any **five** of the following : 10
- (a) Distinguish between weather and climate.
 - (b) What are Tsunamis ? How are they formed ?
 - (c) Mention two roles of fungi in relation to the environment.
 - (d) Name any two factors that influence terrestrial biomes. Give examples of any two terrestrial biomes.
 - (e) Write the four basic characteristics that are common to any ecosystem.
 - (f) Give any two peculiar features of an ecotone community.
 - (g) Give any two sources of noise pollution. Also give two effects of noise pollution on human beings.
2. (a) How are rocks formed ? Give one example of each category of rocks. 6
- (b) Distinguish between a human-modified and a human-made environment, and give one example of each. 4

3. (a) Using examples, explain the different models of heterotrophic nutrition. 6
- (b) Why is conservation of coral reefs and mangroves important ? Mention two regions of the world that are well-known for their coral reefs and for their mangroves, respectively. 4
4. (a) Explain briefly the mechanism of ecosystem control and ecosystem self-regulation. Give one example of each. 5
- (b) Why are the ecosystems considered as inefficient users of energy ? Give three reasons for the same. 3
- (c) Explain why the soils of tropical forests are usually low in nutrient contents. 2
- OR**
- (a) Describe the process of succession in a terrestrial ecosystem. 5
- (b) Write four characteristics of pioneer species. 2
- (c) Distinguish between bio-accumulation and bio-magnification with suitable examples. 3
5. (a) List two major problems of resource use related to population growth. Also suggest two ways of sustainable use of resources. 4
- (b) Explain the role of the following in environmental management : 6
- (i) Ecological restoration
- (ii) Adoption of the 3 Rs approach