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Open/Limited Competitive Examination for Recruitment to Grade III of the
 Sri Lanka Planning Service - 2011 (2012)

(01) Comprehension

Two hours

Answer all questions.

1. Select one of the following topics and write an essay .

- (i) Impact of the petroleum crisis on the general public of Sri Lanka.
- (ii) Post war environment of Sri Lanka and new strategies of economic development.
- (iii) Intervention of world powers to solve the problems that arise due to the violation of human rights.
- (iv) Traditional values that are shattered by homicides and child abuse in Sri Lanka.
- (v) Tourism in Sri Lanka and safeguarding the identity of local culture.

(35 marks)

2. Read the following passage and write a precis of it reducing it to about **one third** of its present length.

University education in Sri Lanka, which is mainly a public sector monopoly, suffers from both, the inability to meet demand and failure to supply a quality education compatible with labour market requirements. Private sector participation in higher education was opposed for several decades, on the ground, that it will deny the opportunity for higher education for low income students. However, due to inadequate placements in the public university system of Sri Lanka, those with financial affordability, have left to foreign universities resulting in an outflow of a large volume of foreign exchange. In this context, the government has clearly stated that participation in the higher education system will be opened up to the non-state sector, allowing foreign universities to set up affiliated universities in Sri Lanka. The attraction of renowned universities with appropriate regulations and accreditation policies in place would also enable Sri Lanka to attract foreign students to these universities.

(25 marks)

3. Read the following passage and provide brief answers to the questions set on it.

The microfinance sector comprises of a variety of entities including savings associations, rotating savings clubs, credit associations, funeral or death benefit societies, and other such savings and credit clubs/groups. A microfinance institution has been defined as “a credit methodology that employs effective collateral substitutes to deliver and recover short-term, working capital loans to micro entrepreneurs” and as a poverty reduction strategy (Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest (CGAP), 2003). In terms of operational activities, it provides various financial services; including loans, savings, insurance, remittances and other services (advisory and technical services) that target low income clients, particularly, people living in poverty who were traditionally neglected by the formal banks/ financial institutions. As such, microfinance is expected to expand and improve the income generation activities and capacities of the low income earners. The most popular model is the lending through self help groups. This model has been successfully used as a credit delivery mechanism in the microfinance sector.

- (i) What are the entities the microfinance sector consists of?
- (ii) Explain the role of microfinance?

- (iii) State the basic objective of microfinance activities.
- (iv) How do the microfinance entities function as financial intermediaries?
- (v) What is the guidance given to the low income earners by the microfinance activities to uplift their standard of living?

(15 marks)

4. Read the following passage and provide brief answers to the questions set on it.

Coconut Research Institute (CRI), Coconut Development Authority (CDA) and Coconut Cultivation Board (CCB) continued their developmental activities in the coconut sector in 2010. The emergence of an incurable disease namely, "Weligama Coconut Leaf Wilt Disease (WCLWD)" in the Southern province has created an alarming situation as a possible threat to country's coconut industry. In this connection, 18, 109 affected coconut palms were destroyed during the year and at the same time, arrangements were made to distribute seedlings in WCLWD affected areas as a first step to introduce resistant/tolerant coconut varieties. A new division for oil palm research was established at CRI to help the plantation companies growing oil palm. This would encourage the oil palm cultivation domestically to bridge the gap between demand and supply of edible oil. Minimum land size required for the coconut plantation subsidy schemes was reduced from half an acre to quarter acre. In the meantime, in order to enhance the coconut cultivation identified in 70 000 acres in the Northern and the Eastern provinces, steps have been taken to establish a seed garden in Kilinochchi. Further, to ensure the coconut sector development, the government has established a new Cabinet Ministry.

- (i) What are the institutions that function for the development of coconut cultivation in Sri Lanka, at present?
- (ii) What are the reasons for the establishment oil palm cultivation?
- (iii) What is the most proximate reason for introducing new coconut varieties, in recent times?
- (iv) Name **two** areas where a rapid development of coconut cultivation is expected.
- (v) State **three** courses of actions followed by the government to promote the coconut cultivation.

(15 marks)

5. Write the substance of the following paragraph in **one** sentence.

Today many countries use nano technology in the development of the industrial sector to manufacture new and innovative products in a cost effective manner. For example, with the use of nano technology, ordinary textile and fabric are converted into textile that do not absorb liquids and other substances giving it the unique feature of resistance from spills and stains. Similarly, the very high water repellency found on the Lotus flower, known as the lotus effect is seen developed in paints with the use of nano technology ensuring dust and water repellent properties in keeping walls of buildings clean for longer periods. Likewise, the difficulty of cleaning windows of sky scrapers is solved by using nano technology to produce glass with self-cleaning coating surfaces that do not accumulate dust and other tiny particles. These are only a few examples of how nano technology can be applied in the industrial sector.

(10 marks)

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(05) Case Study

One hour

Answer all questions.

1. Assume that you have been appointed as the Head of the Planning Division of a key Ministry under a Provincial Council. You are required to participate in a progress review meeting which is to be chaired by the Governor. At this meeting, it is expected to review the progress of all on-going projects which are being implemented under the Provincial Council. Although you are expected to present the progress of three projects that come under the purview of your Ministry, only a limited time has been allocated for you to present the progress. Taking into consideration the above context, you need to prepare a summary table presenting the relevant information of each project. It is expected to distribute this table among the participants as a supportive document to show the detailed progress of the above three projects while you are presenting the key points.
- (i) List the main project related information that should be presented by you at the progress review meeting. (10 marks)
- (ii) Prepare a suitable table which could be used to summarize the above listed information with respect to the above three projects. (15 marks)
- (iii) At this meeting, some officials might ask you to explain the role of different national agencies with respect to foreign funded projects. The important activities relating to the implementation of foreign funded projects are listed below. Write the names of respective national agency / agencies which is/are responsible for the different activities given below: (Write the relevant answers in your answer script)

Activity/area of responsibility	Responsible Agency/Agencies
(1) Project identification and preparation of detailed proposals	
(2) Appraisal of the proposals in terms of its financial, economic and social viability	
(3) Granting preliminary approval	
(4) Negotiation with lending agencies	
(5) Appraisal of monetary implications of the proposed foreign finance	
(6) Granting final approval	
(7) Giving advices on legal compliance on the terms and conditions of foreign loans/grants	a. b.
(8) Implementation	
(9) Monitoring and supervision	a. b.
(10) Carrying out final audit	

(20 marks)

- (iv) New projects to be funded through foreign financing need to be screened and appraised thoroughly to assess their financial and economic viability. Accordingly, list **four** techniques that can be used in project appraisal.

(10 marks)

(v) The main activities, outputs, outcomes and impacts of a project and indicators that can be used to measure them are listed below in a disorganized manner. Copy the given table into your answer script and organize them under relevant categories using the table given below.

- * Higher productivity.
- * Better and higher quality of life.
- * Fuel conserved/saving.
- * Saving travelling time.
- * Reducing traffic congestion and smooth traffic flow in the city of Colombo .
- * Per Capita GDP.
- * Percentage of population having their own vehicles.
- * Minimizing air pollution and enhancing the quality of air in the city of Colombo.
- * Average moving speed of vehicles in the city of Colombo (km / hr).
- * Fuel consumption rate of motor vehicles in the city of Colombo (km / litre).
- * Average journey time from Bambalapitiya to Fort (minutes).
- * Lead level in the air in the city of Colombo.
- * Upgrading automated traffic signal system in the city of Colombo and operating.
- * Operating a peak hour vehicle restriction system in major routes in the city of Colombo.
- * 50 km of newly rehabilitated roads in the city of Colombo.
- * Installing safety fences along 50 kilometers of roads in the city of Colombo.
- * Reducing the changing time of traffic signals by 10 percent.
- * Names of the roads with newly installed safety fences and their lengths (km).
- * Number of vehicles entering the city in restricted hours.
- * Training of 500 traffic policemen on traffic rules and regulations.
- * Length of the rehabilitated road sections (km).
- * Upgrading the automated traffic signal system in the city of Colombo.
- * Formulation of regulations to introduce a peak hour vehicle restriction system in major routes of the Colombo city.
- * Rehabilitation of 50 km of damaged roads in the city of Colombo.
- * Number of trained policemen deployed in traffic duties in the city of Colombo.
- * Fixing of safety fences along selected roads in the city of Colombo.
- * Deploying 500 trained policemen in traffic duties.

Impacts, Outcomes, Outputs & Activities	Indicators
Impacts	
1.	1.
2.	2.
Outcomes	
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
Outputs	
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.
Activities	
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

(45 marks)

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இலங்கைத் திட்டமிடல் சேவையின் தரம் III இற்கு ஆட்சேர்ப்புச் செய்வதற்கான
மட்டுப்படுத்தப்பட்ட / திறந்த போட்டிப் பரீட்சை 2011(2012)

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(06) திட்டமிடல்
Planning

இரண்டு மணித்தியாலம்
Two hours

எல்லா வினாக்களுக்கும் விடை தருக.

1. பின்வரும் சொற்றொடர்களை வரையறுத்துச் சுருக்கமாக விளக்குக.
 - (i) வருடாந்த திட்டம் (Annual Plan) மற்றும் கூட்டிணைப்புத் திட்டம் (Corporate Plan)
 - (ii) அபிவிருத்தித் திட்டம் (Development Plan) மற்றும் பௌதீகத் திட்டம் (Physical Plan)
 - (iii) செயற்றிட்ட வட்டம் (Project Cycle) மற்றும் செயற்றிட்ட சாத்தியக்கூற்று ஆய்வு (Feasibility Study)
 - (iv) தேறிய தற்போதைய பெறுமதி (NPV) மற்றும் உள்ளக வருவாய் விகிதம் (IRR)
 - (v) நிதி ஆணைக்குழு மற்றும் முகாமைத்துவ சேவைகள் திணைக்களம்

(05 × 5 = 25 புள்ளிகள்)
2. (i) செயற்றிட்டத்தை அடையாளம் காணும் போது அதற்கு முக்கியமாகக் கொள்ளப்படும் அடிப்படைக் காரணிகள் யாவை ?
(10 புள்ளிகள்)
- (ii) அனுமதிக்காகச் சமர்ப்பிக்கப்படுகின்ற செயற்றிட்ட முன்மொழிவொன்றில் அடங்க வேண்டிய அடிப்படை விடயங்கள் யாவை ?
(15 புள்ளிகள்)
3. (i) “செயற்றிட்ட முன்னேற்றக் கண்காணித்தல் தொடர்பாக, “பெறுபேறுகளின் அடிப்படையிலான கண்காணித்தல்கள் மற்றும் மதிப்பாய்வு முறைகள் (Results Based Monitoring and Evaluation Method)” என்பவற்றின் முக்கியத்துவத்தைக் காட்டி இந்தப் பெறுபேறு அடிப்படையிலான கண்காணித்தல் மற்றும் மதிப்பாய்வு முறைகள் எவ்வாறு செயற்றிட்ட செயற்பாடுகளின் முன்னேற்றத்தை அளவிடுவதற்குப் பயன்படுகிறது என்பதனை ஒரு பிரயோக உதாரணத்துடன் விபரிக்குக.
(10 புள்ளிகள்)
- (ii) ஏதாவது நிறுவனங்களினால் / செயற்றிட்டத்தினால் சமர்ப்பிக்கப்படுகின்ற முன்னேற்ற அறிக்கையில் கருத்தில் கொள்ளப்படுகின்ற மூன்று மட்டங்களை உடைய நிறைவேற்று குறிகாட்டிகள் (Performance indicators) காணப்படுகின்றன. நிறைவேற்று குறிகாட்டிகளின் இந்த மூன்று மட்டங்கள் எவை உதாரணங்களுடன் விபரிக்குக.
(15 புள்ளிகள்)
4. செயற்றிட்டம் அல்லது செயற்றிட்ட செயற்பாட்டின் தோல்விக்கும் காலதாமதத்திற்கும் முக்கியமான காரணிகள் எவை என இலங்கையில் தற்போது அமுல்படுத்தப்பட்டுக் கொண்டிருக்கின்ற வெளிநாட்டு நிதியீட்ட செயற்றிட்டங்களைத் தொடர்பு படுத்தி விவரிக்க.
(25 புள்ளிகள்)
