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 முழுப் பதிப்புரிமையடையது]  
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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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