

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Masters in Economics- 2014/2015

Final Examination- Semester II

MECON 507: Development Economics

Answer Four (04) Questions Only

Time Allowed: Three (03) Hours

Each question carries equal marks

**Open book Examination**

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1. (a) Explain briefly the major changes in development thinking since the World War II up to date.  
(b) Examine Sri Lanka's development policy choices in the light of the changes you mentioned Above.
2. (a) Explain the economic problem of ageing population in countries with larger percentage of elderly persons. What remedial measures do you propose to address the problem?  
(b) Describe how human capital could enhance the use of human resources of an economy. Compare and contrast the experiences of a developed and developing country of your choice in building human capital.
3. (a) Outline briefly the seventeen goals of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030. Why have environmental concerns become a serious issue in development agenda?  
(b) What are the major causes and consequences of environmental degradation? What policies and measures could be used to mitigate the problem?
4. (a) What is meant by food security? Explain the reasons for world food problem in the contemporary world.  
(b) Propose policies for promoting food security and ensuring the societies to access food and safe drinking water at an affordable cost.
5. (a) Explain the concept of absolute and relative poverty and the indices used to measure it in the modern world.  
(b) Explain the importance of a sustainable poverty reduction strategy in the long run.

6. (a) Examine the possible contribution of agriculture sector in the development both industrial and services sectors of an economy focusing on forward and backward linkages among them.
- (b) Explain the nexus between international trade and economic growth drawing examples from contemporary world
7. Write brief note on any two (02) of the following:
- (a) The role of international organization in development policymaking of developing countries
- (b) Spreading communicable diseases in the world
- (c) Urbanization and urban-rural migration: causes and consequences
- (d) Renewable energy as an alternative to fossil fuel: Reflections on recent plunging of petroleum prices in the international market.
- (e) Tradeoff between economic growth and environmental quality

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