

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, FACULTY OF ARTS
Postgraduate Diploma in Economic Development (PgDED) – 2018
PgDED 5103: Comparative Economic Development
Answer any Five (05) Questions only
All questions carry equal marks
Time Allowed: 03 Hours

1. 'Financial sector in developing countries remain backward even in the 21st century.'
Discuss this statement taking examples from other developing countries where necessary.
2. Discuss the key characteristics of the economy of China as a 'transition economy' and compare it with those of the countries of Eastern Europe.
3. Identify the main economic characteristics of high-growth economies known as the Tiger Economies of Asia. Elaborate your answer with reference to their organization and performances.
4. "Slavery that dominated the American economy over the centuries prior to 17th century have contributed to its emergence as a key economy over the 19th century onwards." Critically elaborate this statement.
5. **Either**
Introduction of the 'plantation economy' in Sri Lanka contributed to the creation, on the one hand, of a landed-class and, on the other, a 'working-class'. Discuss this supposition with reference to the coconut and rubber plantations in "the coconut triangle" of Sri Lanka.

Or

'Dualistic nature of plantation sector and the domestic agricultural sector were the main cause of slow economic growth of post-colonial Sri Lanka.' Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.

6. Liberalization of foreign trade of Sri Lanka in late 1970s and early 1980s brought far reaching consequences for long term growth of the economy. Elaborate this statement in the light of early years of the political independence.
7. It has been said that the economic argument for the emergence of EU rested on the need felt by the countries of Western Europe to sustain economic challenge posed by the US as well as to help the local enterprises of the countries of Europe realize their 'economies of scale.' Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.
8. Critically examine the significance of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for economic growth of the relatively smaller economies like Sri Lanka.
9. Identify the appropriateness of physical infrastructure facilities in facilitation of economic growth of Sri Lanka:
10. Discuss the significance of education in helping to transform the economy from low-tech economy to a high-tech economy.