

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO – SRI LANKA
FACULTY OF ARTS
SPECIAL DEGREE EXAMINATION IN ARTS (GEOGRAPHY) – PART-II
SECOND SEMESTER END EXAMINATION – 2017/2018
GYG 3253 – Biogeography

Two hours

Answer **three (03)** questions only.

01. i). What are the different approaches to studying biogeography?
(04 Marks)
- ii). Briefly explain the sub fields of studies in Biogeography.
(06 Marks)
- iii). Discuss how the different approaches in Biogeography help to study the factors responsible for the distribution of plants and animals.
(10 Marks)
02. i). Describe the characteristics of primitive earth.
(04 Marks)
- ii). Using a diagram, explain how Miller and Urey employ the characteristics of early atmosphere for their experiment.
(06 Marks)
- iii). Discuss how different theories and ideas on the origin of life have been modified or rejected in favour of new theories and experiments.
(10 Marks)
03. i). Explain the difference between niche and habitat.
(04 Marks)
- ii). Explain the impact of factors on the size of a population of organisms in an ecosystem.
(06 Marks)
- iii). Using appropriate examples, discuss the importance of the primary producer for the proper function of an ecosystem
(10 Marks)

04. i). Briefly describe the standard rules for naming organisms. (04 Marks)

ii). Explain how organisms differ in the ways they obtain their food or other such energy sources. (06 Marks)

iii). Using the knowledge of “Life kingdom” discuss the biogeographical importance of classifying organisms. (10 Marks)

05. i). What are the reasons for the ecological succession defined as “Natural law”? (04 Marks)

ii). Explain the stages of primary succession using an example from terrestrial ecosystems. (06 Marks)

iii). Discuss with examples the limits and issues of frequent disturbance to the progress of ecological successions. (10 Marks)

06. i). State the physical properties of soils. (04 Marks)

ii). Explain the importance of soil weathering in the formation of soil. (06 Marks)

iii). Discuss with examples and diagrams the role of soil organisms in Carbon and Nitrogen cycles. (10 Marks)
