

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:--

M.Sc.

ESGY3: Urban and Regional Political Ecology

COURSE CODE : **ENVSGY03**

DATE : **23-MAR-05**

TIME : **10.00**

TIME ALLOWED : **3 Hours**

PAPER ENVSGY03: Urban and Regional Political Ecology

DURATION: 3 Hours.

Please answer TWO questions only, ONE from Section A and ONE from Section B. All questions carry equal marks

Answer only ONE of the following questions:

SECTION A

1. "Ecological arguments are never socially neutral any more than socio-political arguments are ecologically neutral. Looking more closely at the way ecology and politics interrelate, then becomes imperative if we are to get a better handle on how to approach environmental/ecological questions". (Harvey, David, 1999, *Justice, Nature and the Geography of Difference*, Blackwell Publishers, Oxford, page 182). Discuss.
2. What are the main dilemmas faced in the understanding and pursuit of collective action to solve environmental conflicts? Focusing on two contrasting environmental discourses, compare their approaches to collective action and the implications of these for environmental policy making.
3. Hardin's famous argument about the 'Tragedy of the Commons' is still at the heart of contemporary debates about natural resource use and control. Departing from Hardin's analysis, identify and compare at least two of the key arguments that characterise today's debate in relation to the commons.
4. Are environmental sustainability and social justice two complementary or competing policy objectives? Examine how different environmental discourses frame this relationship by comparing at least two examples, and position yourself in the debate.

SECTION B

Answer only ONE of the following questions:

5. Focusing on a case study of your choice, examine at least two different options available in managing the commons. What are their potentials and limitations? Which one would you choose in this particular situation and why?
6. Increasingly, the provision of urban basic services, such as water and sanitation, is subject to complex institutional arrangements, characterised by the participation of more than one agent (i.e. public-private; public-community; private-community). Focusing on a case study of your choice, examine the potentials and constraints of at least two different collaborative arrangements.
7. Focusing on a case study of your choice, examine the main policy options available to curb industrial pollution in the context of developing countries. What are their limitations and potentials? What criteria would you adopt to choose among them and why?
8. Focusing on a case study of your choice, examine the role of the state and the market in steering the environmental policy process comparing the assumptions underlying formal regulation and the use of market mechanisms. Critically assess the potentials and constraints of both mechanisms and explain if there are any alternatives to them.

END OF PAPER

compare role of state (Gov. reg)
market
assessing respective contributions to
steering the environmental policy process