

National University of Science and Technology

Faculty of Commerce

Institute of Development Studies

Master of Science in Disaster Management

Disaster Vulnerability and Risk Management – MDM 5102

Final Examination - December 2013

TIME: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

This paper consists of **THREE** printed pages and **SIX** questions.

Answer **ANY FOUR** questions.

Start your answer to each question on a fresh page.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

All questions carry equal marks [**25 MARKS**]

You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.

QUESTION 1

Assume that you are a disaster management specialist who has been hired by a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) to consult on disaster risk assessment and you are required to design a risk assessment report on flooding.

In your report:

- a) Outline and explain the risk identification criteria. **[8]**
- b) Identify and discuss the steps that are critical in disaster risk assessment. **[8]**
- c) Recommend and give reasons for the criteria of assessing risk treatments that can be used. **[9]**

[Total marks 25]

QUESTION 2

Using examples, discuss how Risk Assessment is a systematic and consistent approach to assessing hazards, vulnerability, capacity and risk.

[Total marks 25]

QUESTION 3

'Vulnerability is not just the tail of a probability distribution; it is an essential aspect of social and economic systems.'

Using examples critically analyse this statement and demonstrate its efficacy or falsity.

[Total marks 25]

QUESTION 4

Discuss the main driving forces for the changing nature and context of risks, which leads to the identification of a set of cross-cutting issues deemed essential for the management of risks in the years to come.

[Total marks 25]

QUESTION 5

"In the 19th century, many so-called technologically 'caused' disasters were interpreted as a manifestation of God's anger toward human arrogance." (Bongo et al., 2013:2).

Critically discuss how this view perpetuate and worsen disasters instead of helping to understand and ameliorate their root conditions.

[Total marks 25]

QUESTION 6

“Social vulnerability floated in the semantic soup, and then generated a taxonomy, with more flexibility it became useful in situational analysis, and now, in the hands of the communities, is a tool.” (Wisner, 2001:2).

Critically analyze the key issues invoked by this statement in relation to the concept of vulnerability.

[Total marks 25]

END OF EXAMINATION