

Chapter 2 - Land, Soil, Water, Natural Vegetation and Wildlife Resources

1. Answer the following questions.

(i) Which are the two main climatic factors responsible for soil formation?

Answer: Two main climatic factors responsible for soil formation are Temperature and Rainfall wherein rainfall influences the rate of weathering and humus formation.

(ii) Write any two reasons for land degradation today.

Answer: Overuse of chemical fertilizers and deforestation are two reasons for land degradation. Growing population and their ever-growing demand has led to large scale destruction of forest cover and arable land and has created a fear of losing this natural resource.

(iii) Why is land considered an important resource?

Answer: Land is considered an important resource because it can be put to use for various purposes like agriculture, forestry, mining, building, houses, roads and setting up of industries.

(iv) Name any two steps that the government has taken to conserve plants and animals.

Answer: Two major steps taken by Government to protect and conserve plants, animals and natural vegetation are:

- National parks, wildlife sanctuaries, biosphere reserves are made to protect our natural vegetation and wildlife.
- Awareness programmes like social forestry and tree plantation- Vanamahotsava are organised to conserve forest a valuable natural resource.

(v) Suggest three ways to conserve water.

Answer: two ways for water conservation are: Increasing forest and other vegetation covers to slow the surface runoff and replenish underground water and rain Water harvesting is another method to save surface runoff and conserve water.

2. Tick the correct answer.

(i) Which one of the following is NOT a factor of soil formation?

- (a) time
- (b) soil texture
- (c) organic matter

Answer: b. Soil Texture

(ii) Which one of the following methods is most appropriate to check soil erosion on steep slopes?

- (a) shelterbelts
- (b) mulching
- (c) terrace cultivation

Answer: c Terrace cultivation

(iii) Which one of the following is NOT in favour of the conservation of nature?

- (a) switch off the bulb when not in use
- (b) close the tap immediately after using
- (c) dispose of polypacks after shopping

Answer: c Dispose of polypacks after shopping

3. Match the following

Column A	Column B
Land use	prevent soil erosion
Humus	The narrow zone of contact between the lithosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere
Rock Dams	productive use of land
Biosphere	organic matter deposited on topsoil
	contour ploughing

Answer:

Column A	Column B
Land use	productive use of land
Humus	organic matter deposited on topsoil
Rock Dams	prevent soil erosion
Biosphere	The narrow zone of contact between the lithosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere

4: State whether the given statement is true or false. If true, give the reasons.

(i). Ganga–Brahmaputra plain of India is an overpopulated region.

True: river valley and plains offer suitable land for agriculture hence, they are densely populated.

(ii) Water availability per person in India is declining.

True: Increasing population, increasing urbanisation, rising standards of living and rising demands for food and cash crops, are leading to shortages in the supply of fresh water either due to drying up of water sources or water pollution.

(iii) Rows of trees planted in the coastal areas to check the wind movement are called intercropping.

False: Rows of trees are planted to check the wind movement to protect soil cover is called shelterbelts

(iv). Human interference and changes in climate can maintain the ecosystem.

False: Changes in climate and human interferences can cause the loss of natural habitats, hence destroy the ecosystem.

