

5 Mark Questions

1. How forests are useful to man?

Ans.

1. The wood that we get from the forests is important for building and construction purposes, for domestic furniture and for fuel.
2. The raw materials for paper industry, match-making and sport materials are mainly derived from the forests.
3. The sandal wood, gums, resins, turpentine oil etc. are extracted from the forest products. Besides the above products, the forests yield many other useful products such as herbs, lac, honey etc.
4. Grass grown in forests is used for grazing the cattle, sheep, camel etc. To great extent, the shortage for fodder is also made up by these forests.
5. They play a major role in enhancing the quality of environment. They modify local climate. They help in controlling soil erosion.

2. Explain how human activities have affected the depletion of flora

Ans.

1. Humans have cleared the jungles for their own living and the livings of their animals as well as for the construction of their houses. Too much destruction of trees has disturbed the ecosystem and created various health problems for themselves.
2. The agriculture expansion during the colonial rule and even after independence proved one of the major causes of the depletion of the flora and fauna.
3. The great demand of sleeper for the expansion of railways and ship-building during the colonial rule also inflicted a great damage to the Indian forests.
4. As a result of the removal of the original plant cover and its replacement by a single crop, the biological diversity has been reduced and a single crop has become vulnerable to pests and diseases.
5. The burning of fossil fuels in large quantity, automobile exhausts, gaseous effluents from factories have led to the pollution of air and water.

3. What were the views of foresters and environmentalists regarding the degrading factors behind the depletion of forest resources?

Ans.

1. Many foresters and environmentalists hold the view that the greatest degrading factors behind the depletion of forests resources are grazing and fuel wood collection.
2. Though there may be some substance in their argument, yet, the fact remains that a substantial part of the fodder demand is met by lopping rather than by felling entire trees.
3. The forest ecosystems are repositories of some of the country's most valuable forest products, minerals and other resources that meet the demands of the rapidly expanding industrial-urban economy.
4. These protected areas, thus mean different things to different people, and therein lays the fertile ground for conflicts.

4. Write down the features of JFM.

Ans.

1. In India Joint Forest Management program furnishes a good example for involving local communities in the management and restoration of degraded forests.
2. The program has been in formal existence since 1988 when the state of Orissa passed the first resolution for joint forest management.
3. JFM depends on the formation of local (village) institutions that undertake protection activities mostly on degraded forest land managed by the forest department.
4. In return, the members of these communities are entitled to intermediary benefits like non timber forest products and share in the timber harvested by successful protection.

5. What steps must be taken to preserve the natural vegetation?

Ans.

1. Cutting of the trees in the forests must be stopped. The government has taken adequate steps in this direction. Forest department has been created for this purpose. Laws have been implemented to punish the persons who are found guilty of cutting of trees. Awareness among the people is more important. Without this awareness result cannot be satisfactory.
2. The people must cooperate to check the feeling of trees. Their active participation is most important in this regard. Many persons have must come forward for this task.
3. Necessary wood for industrial purposes and for other activities must be acquired in a well planned manner, so that industrial growth and environment protection both can be achieved.
4. Wherever the trees have been cut for any reason, new saplings of trees must be planted to maintain the ecological balance.
5. Festivals like Vanmahotsava should be celebrated everywhere. It would help in growing the awareness.

6. What are the steps taken by Government to conserve flora and fauna of the country?

Ans.

1. To protect flora and fauna, the Indian wildlife protection Act was implemented in 1972, with various provisions for protecting habitats.
2. An all-India list of protected species was also published. The thrust of the program was towards protecting the remaining population of certain endangered species by banning hunting, giving legal protection to their habitats and restricting trade in wildlife.
3. Central and many state governments established national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.
4. The central government announced several projects for protecting specific animals, which were gravely threatened, including the tiger, the one horned rhinoceros, the Kashmir stag or hangul, three types of crocodile-freshwater crocodile, saltwater crocodile and the Gharial, the Asiatic lion, and others.
5. Most recently, the Indian elephant, black buck, the great Indian bustard and the snow leopard, etc. have been full or partial legal protection against hunting and trade throughout India.

7. Highlight the trees and animals which are worshiped by Indian societies in different parts of India?

Ans.

1. The Mundas and the Santhals of Chhota Nagpur region worship the mahua and kadamba tree.
2. The tribals of Orissa and Bihar worship the tamarind and mango trees during auspicious occasions such as weddings.
3. The peepal and banyan tree are considered sacred all over the country.
4. Certain animals such as macaques and langurs are treated as a part of temple devotees.
5. In Rajasthan nilgai, peacock and chinkara are an important part of the community and no one can think of harming them

8. Write a short note on Beej Bachao Andolan in TehriNavdanya.

Ans.

1. Beej Bachao Andolan in Tehri and Navdanya-Save the seed movement searches, reintroduces, collects, tests, distributes and popularizes every indigenous variety of mountain crops available.
2. It has also been able to successfully revive the free exchange of seeds within the community and has proved to be a lifeline of traditional mountain agriculture.
3. It advocates the discontinuation of the use of chemical dependent seeds and synthetic chemicals.
4. These measures, they argue, are also economically viable as diversified crop production in adequate quantities have been achieved.

9. Mention the negative factors which since pre-independence to present period have contributed significantly to the fearful depletion of flora and fauna in India.

Ans.

1. Colonial forest policies were responsible for depletion of forests, as enrichment plantation which promoted a few favoured species eliminated the others.
2. Between 1951 and 1980 large areas of forests were transformed into agricultural land. It is estimated that more than 26,200 sq. km of forest area was used for this purpose.
3. Expansion of railways, commercial and scientific forestry, mining activities and agriculture have contributed toward depletion of flora and fauna.
4. Agricultural practices such as slash and burn popular in the tribal belts have also contributed towards depletion of flora and fauna.
5. Development projects such as the Narmada Sagar Project in Madhya Pradesh have also led to the loss of forests.

10. The destruction of forests and wildlife is not just a biological issue. The biological loss is strongly correlated with the loss of cultural diversity. Elucidate.

Ans.

1. Deforestation and destruction of wildlife is not just a simple problem. It has other related issues. This biological loss correlates highly with the loss of cultural diversity.
2. These losses have had a deep and lasting impact on the forest dependent communities. These indigenous communities are directly dependent on forests for their food, medicines, spirituality and other needs. Due to deforestation these communities have become marginalized and impoverished.
3. Here again women are more affected than man. In most societies women shoulder the responsibilities of collection of basic substance needs such as fuel, fodder, water, etc.
4. Women faces sever drudgery if their resources get depleted or scare and their health deteriorates as they have to traverse long distances to collect these resources.
5. Deforestation also leads to floods and drought which hits the economically backward strata very hard. This includes more poverty.

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