



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: X	Department: SOCIAL SCIENCE	Subject: Geography
Chapter 1	Topic: Resources and Development	Year:2026-27
Question Bank No:1		

Q. 1 What are Resources? Give two examples.

Ans. Everything available in our environment which can be used to satisfy our needs, provided, it is technologically accessible, economically feasible and culturally acceptable can be termed as Resource. Coal, water, air, minerals, etc. are some examples of resources.

Q. 2. What is the role of human beings in resource development? OR

Resources are the functions of human beings' Justify the statement. OR

Do you think that resources are free gifts of nature as is assumed by many? Justify your answer with any three suitable arguments/examples.

Ans.

Resources are not the free gifts of nature.

- Human beings interact with nature through technology, and create institutions to accelerate their economic development.
- Human beings themselves are essential components of resources.
- They transform the material available in our environment into resource, and use them. For example, river is a natural resource but river become a resource when its water is used for irrigation or power production.

Q. 3. Discuss the problems which have been caused due to over utilization of resources. OR

Indiscriminate use of resources had led to numerous problems.' Justify this statement. OR

Why is there a need to conserve resources?

Ans.

Resources are vital for human survival. The indiscriminate use of resources led to the following problems:

- Depletion of resources:** - Overutilization has led to the depletion of the resources for meeting the greed of few individuals. For example, over utilization of petroleum products has led to a situation where most of the countries of the world are facing energy crisis.
- Concentration of resources in few hands:** - This has divided the society into haves and have not or the rich and the poor.
- Global ecological crisis:** - Over-utilization of resources has led to the global ecological crisis such as global warming, depletion or ozone layer, pollution and land degradation.

Q. 4. What is Agenda 21? List its two principles.

Ans.

Agenda 21 was adopted at first International Earth Summit held in 1992 at Rio de Janeiro Brazil.

The two principles are as follows:

- To combat environmental damage, poverty, disease through global cooperation on common interests, mutual needs and shared responsibilities.
- Every local government should draw its own local Agenda 21.

Q. 5. “Resource planning is essential for sustainable existence of all forms of life.” Explain.
Ans.

Sustainable existence is a part of sustainable development, so resource planning is essential for sustainable existence of all forms of life

- i) An equitable distribution of resources has become essential for a sustained quality of life and global peace.
- ii) If the present trend of resource depletion by a few individuals and countries continues, the future of our planet is in danger.

Q. 6. “Development in India does not only involve the availability of resources but also the technology, quality of human resources and the historical experience of the people.” Justify the statement.

Ans. 1. Resources can contribute to development only when they are accompanied by appropriate technological development and institutional changes.

2. The history of colonization reveals that rich resources in colonies were the main attractions for the foreign invaders.

3. It was primarily the higher level of technological development of the colonizing countries that helped them to exploit resources of other regions and establish their supremacy over the colonies.

Q. 7. Why is there a need to conserve resources? What was Gandhi’s opinion regarding the conservation of resources?

Ans.

- i). Most of the resources have limited supply.
- ii). Overutilization of resources may lead to environmental problems.
- iii). Overutilization of resources may lead to socio-economic problems.

Gandhi ji was very apt in voicing his concern about resource conservation. He said, “*There is enough for everybody’s need, and not for anybody’s greed.*” According to him, it was the greedy and selfish individuals who were responsible for depletion of resources. He was in favour of producing for the masses than mass production.

Q. 8. How is land a natural resource of utmost importance? Explain with four facts.

Ans.

- i) All economic activities are performed on land.
- ii) It supports natural vegetation and wildlife.
- iii) Most of the minerals are formed in land.
- iv) It is used for transport and communication system.

Q. 9. The pattern of net sown area varies greatly from one state to another. It is over 80% of the total area in Punjab and Haryana and less than 10% in Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur and Andaman Nicobar Islands. Find out reasons for the low proportion of net sown area in these states.

Ans. Reasons for the low proportion of net sown area in Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur and Andaman Nicobar Islands are as follows:

- i) Mostly tribal group lives in this region. Even today they practice shifting cultivation.
- ii) These states are covered by dense tropical forests.
- iii) These states receive very heavy and a large amount of rainfall.
- iv) The topography and soil types are not favourable for the cultivation.
- v)

Q. 10. Explain the human activities which are mainly responsible for land degradation in India.

Ans. Continuous use of land over a prolonged period of time without taking necessary steps to conserve and manage it, has resulted in **land degradation**.

Human activities responsible for land degradation in India are as follows:

- (i) In states like Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa deforestation due to mining have caused severe land degradation. Mining sites are dug, drilled or quarried and abandoned after excavation work is over, leaving the land over-burdened and in a highly degraded state.
- (ii) Mineral processing like grinding of limestone for cement industry and calcite and soapstone for ceramic industry generate huge quantity of mineral dust in the atmosphere which ultimately settles down on the land. It retards the process of infiltration of water into the soil, thus, degrading the land.
- (iii) In states like Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra overgrazing is one of the main reasons for land degradation.
- (iv) In Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh over-irrigation is responsible for land degradation. It leads to water logging which in turn increases salinity and alkalinity in the soil and reduces its fertility.
- (v) Discharge of industrial effluents and wastes cause pollution and land degradation in industrial regions.

Q.11. How over irrigation and mining leads to land degradation?

Ans.

- i) Over irrigation is responsible for land degradation due to water logging which leads to increase in salinity and alkalinity in the soil.
- ii) The minerals procession like grinding of limestone for cement industry and calcite and soapstone for ceramic industry generate huge quantity of dust in the atmosphere. It retards the process of infiltration of water into the soil after it settles down on the land.

Q. 12. Discuss some of the ways to solve the problem of land degradation.

Ans: There are many ways to solve the problems of land degradation.

- i) Afforestation and proper management of grazing can help to some extent as the grass binds the soil.
- ii) Planting of shelter belts of plants, control on over grazing,
- iii) Stabilization of sand dunes by growing thorny bushes are suitable in arid and semi-arid regions. They help in binding the soil with the roots and also reduce the speed of the wind.
- iv) Proper management of waste lands, control of mining activities.
- v) Proper discharge and disposal of industrial effluents and wastes after treatment can reduce land and water degradation in industrial and suburban areas.

Q.13. Which is the most widely spread and important soil of India? State the characteristics of this type of soil.

Ans. Alluvial soil is the most fertile, widely spread and important soil of India.

The main characteristics of this soil type are :

- (i) Alluvial soil is riverine soil, transported and deposited by rivers. So, it is also called transported soil. Alluvial soil forms the Northern Plains. The soil has been deposited by the three great Himalayan river systems – the Indus, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra. They are also found in the Eastern Coastal Plains, mainly in the deltas of the Mahanadi, the Godavari, the Krishna and the Kaveri rivers.
- (ii) Alluvial soil consists of various proportions of sand, silt and clay. As we move inland towards the river valleys, soil particles appear bigger in size. In the upper reaches of the river valley, the soils are coarse. Such soils are more common in piedmont plains such as **Duars, Chos and Terai**.
- iii) According to their age alluvial soil can be classified as old alluvial (Bangar) and new alluvial (Khadar). The bangar soil has higher concentration of kanker nodules than the Khadar. Khadar has more fine particles and is more fertile than the bangar.
- (iv) Alluvial is very fertile and regions with alluvial soil are agriculturally most productive and densely populated.

- (v) They mostly contain adequate proportion of potash, phosphoric acid and lime.
- vi) This rich soil is ideal for growth of paddy, wheat, sugarcane and other cereals and pulses.
- vii) Soils in the drier areas are more alkaline and can be productive after proper treatment and irrigation.

Q 14. Distinguish between Khaddar and Bhangar.

Ans. Khaddar (New)

- i). The Khaddar soils are found in the low areas of the valley bottom of a valley which are flooded every year.
- ii). These soils are finer in texture. Light in colour.
- iii). The khaddar soils are more fertile as these are found in the low areas of bottom of a valley which are flooded almost every year.

Bhangar (Old)

- i). The Bhangar soils are found in the higher reaches, about 30 m above the flood level.
- ii). These are coarse in texture. (Kankar). Dark in colour.
- iii). These soils are not flooded every year.

Q.15. Which soil is well known for its capacity to hold moisture? Give reason.

Ans. Black soil. As black soil is made up of extremely fine clayey material.

Q.16. Mention any five characteristics of black soil.

Ans.

- i) These soils are black in colour and are also known as regur soils.
- ii) The black soils are made of extremely fine materials i.e., clayey materials. Ideal for growing cotton and is also known as black cotton soil.
- iii) It is believed that climatic condition along with the parent rock material are the important factors for the formation of black soil. This type of soil is typical of the Deccan trap (Basalt) region spread over northwest Deccan plateau and is made up of lava flows.
- iv) They cover the plateaus of Maharashtra, Saurashtra, Malwa, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. They extend in the south east direction along the Godavari and the Krishna valleys.
- v) These soils are rich in soil nutrients such as calcium carbonate, magnesium carbonate, potash and lime.
- vi) These soils are generally poor in phosphoric content
- vii) The soil is well known for its capacity to hold moisture.
- viii) They develop deep cracks during hot weather, which helps in the proper aeration of the soil.
- ix) These soils are sticky when wet and difficult to work on unless tilled immediately after the first shower.

Q. 17. Explain the red and yellow soils on the basis of the following:

Ans. I) Where are they developed? – Red soil develops on crystalline igneous rocks in the areas of low rainfall in the eastern and southern parts of the Deccan plateau.

II) Distribution: Red and Yellow soils are also found in parts of Orissa, Chhattisgarh, southern parts of the middle Ganga plain and along the piedmont zone of the Western Ghats.

III) Why does the red soil appear reddish and yellow in colour? - These soils develop a reddish colour due to diffusion of iron in crystalline and metamorphic rocks. It looks yellow when it occurs in a hydrated form.

Q.18. What is leaching? Name the soils which develop due to leaching.

Ans. Leaching is a process by which the nutrients in the soil are washed away by heavy rains and high temperature. As a result of high rainfall, lime and silica are leached away Laterite soils develop due to leaching.

Q.19. Write important features of laterite soil.

- Ans:**
- i) Laterite is derived from the Latin word '*later*', which means brick. This soil develops under tropical and subtropical climates with alternate wet and dry seasons.
 - ii) This is the result of intense leaching due to heavy rain.

- iii) Micro-organisms particularly the decomposers, like bacteria, get destroyed due to high temperature. Lateritic soils are mostly deep to very deep and are acidic (pH < 6.0).
- iv) These soils occur mostly in the southern states, the Western Ghats region of Maharashtra, Odisha, some parts of West Bengal, and the North-East regions. Where these soils support deciduous and evergreen forests, they are rich in humus.
- v) Under sparse vegetation and in semi-arid environments, they are generally poor in humus. They are prone to erosion and degradation due to their position on the landscape.
- vi) After adopting appropriate soil conservation techniques, particularly in the hilly areas of Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, this soil becomes very useful for growing tea, coffee and cashew nut.

Q.20. Mention any five features of the arid soils.

Ans.

- i) The soils range red to brown in colour.
- ii) They are generally sandy in texture and saline in nature.
- iii) In some areas the salt content is very high and common salt is obtained by evaporating the water.
- iv) The soils contain low percentage of organic matter due to dry climate and absence of vegetation.
- v) Due to the dry climate, high temperature, evaporation is faster and the soil lacks humus and moisture.
- vi) After proper irrigation these soils become cultivable and crops such as barley, wheat, millets etc. are grown in some areas of Rajasthan.

The lower horizons of the soils are occupied by Kankar because of the increasing calcium content downwards. The Kankar layer formations in the bottom horizons restrict the infiltration of water. After proper irrigation these soils become cultivable as has been in the case of western Rajasthan.

Q.21. Explain the forest soils on the basis of the following:

I) Areas- Found in the hilly and mountainous areas where sufficient rain forests are available. These soils are heterogeneous (diverse) in nature, and their character changes with mountain environment and altitude.

II) Soil Texture: The soils texture varies according to the mountain environment where they are formed. They are loamy and silty on valley sides and coarse grained on the upper slopes.

III) Other Features: -

- a) In the snow-covered areas of Himalayas, these soils experience denudation and are acidic with low humus content.
- b) The soils found in the lower parts of the valley particularly on the river terraces and alluvial fans are fertile.

Q. 22. Explain the following:

I) Soil erosion. Which human activities and natural resources lead to soil erosion?

II) Sheet erosion

III) Wind erosion. How do the defective methods of farming cause soil erosion?

IV) Gullies

V) Bad lands and Ravines

Ans:

I) The denudation of the soil cover and subsequent washing down is described as **soil erosion**.

The processes of soil formation and erosion go on simultaneously and generally there is a balance between the two.

Sometimes, this balance is disturbed due to human activities like deforestation, over-grazing, construction and mining etc., while natural forces like wind, glacier and water lead to soil erosion.

II) Sometimes water flows as a sheet over large areas down a slope. In such cases the top soil is washed away. This is known as **sheet erosion**.

III) Wind blows loose soil off flat or sloping land known as wind erosion.

Soil erosion is also caused due to defective methods of farming.

Ploughing in a wrong way i.e.-up and down the slope form channels for the quick flow of water leading to soil erosion.

- IV) The running water cuts through the clayey soils and makes deep channels as **gullies**.
V) The land becomes unfit for cultivation and is known as **bad land**. In the Chambal basin such lands are called **ravines**.

Q. 23. Which steps can be taken for soil conservation.

Ans.

- i) Afforestation: Afforestation and proper management of grazing can help to some extent as the grass binds the soil.
- ii) Contour Ploughing: along the contour lines can decelerate the flow of water down the slopes. This is called contour ploughing.
- iii) Terrace farming: Steps can be cut out on the slopes making terraces. Terrace cultivation restricts erosion. Western and central Himalayas have well developed terrace farming.
- iv) Strip cropping: large fields can be divided into strips. Strips of grass are left to grow between the crops. This breaks up the force of the wind. This method is known as strip cropping.
- v) Shelter belts: Planting lines of trees to create shelter also helps in soil conservation. Rows of such trees are called shelter belts. These shelter belts have contributed significantly to the stabilization of sand dunes and in stabilizing the desert in western India.

Q. 24. How has technical and economic development led to more consumption of resources?

Ans: Technical and economic development led to more consumption of resources on account of various factors:

- i) Human beings interact with nature through technology and create institutions to expand their economic development, as a result they often consume resources more in quantity.
- ii) Technological development also leads to economic development. It again results into more consumption of resources.
- iii) In colonial times, imperial powers used their technological and economic superiority to establish control over other countries thus utilizing more resources.
- iv) Technical progress also results in inefficient machinery, increased production, and greater consumption of resources.

Hence, greater the technical and economic development, the greater the consumption of resources.