

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (UGC Syllabus)



For Under Graduate Students of all
Indian Universities and
Autonomous Institutions



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UNIT-I :

MULTI DISCIPLINARY NATURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Definition:

The study of nature, natural resources, the inter relationship with human activities, disturbances to the environment and the attempts to improve the environment is called environmental studies.

The process of sensitizing individuals and the public about the environmental crisis, recognizing environmental values and clarifying concepts forms the basis of environmental education.

Environmental Studies is a multidisciplinary subject; It attempts to make human civilization sustainable on earth's finite resources.

Scope:

Everything around us forms our environment. Our lives depend on water, air, food and other natural resources. Continuance of life on earth is not possible without protecting Earth's environmental resources. Hence, our environment is traditionally referred as 'Mother Nature' and respecting nature and all living creatures is vital.

Modern societies believe in producing more resources by indiscriminate application of technological innovations like using fertilizers and pesticides, developing better strains of animals and crops plants, irrigation by mega dams and industrialization. This leads to rapid economic growth but also to environmental degradation.

Mere understanding and making ourself aware of environmental assets and issues is not enough. We must become increasingly concerned about our environment and change the way of use of every resource. Over use of resources may lead to unsustainable utilization. All our actions are to be environmentally positive.

Importance of Environmental Studies:

Environmental studies, is multidisciplinary and thus it's scope is very wide, covering most of the major science disciplines.

Earth's natural resources are limited. It cannot be expected to sustain the expanding level of utilization of resources. Misuse or indiscriminate use of resources pollute our environment. Government alone cannot safeguard our environment. It is the responsibility of every one of us to have environmental friendly approach in our daily activities.

Plants and animals contain unaccountable number of complex chemicals. These are used as raw materials for developing new medicines and industrial products. Flowering plants and insects form the most species rich groups of living organisms. Degradation and destruction of habitat lead to extinction of these species. Once a species is lost, man cannot bring it back. When we permit the destruction of forest and other natural habitats, the future generations are being denied of these valuable resources. Thus we must understand the urgent need of protecting all living species. A strong public awareness is to be created to protect the national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

Earth's natural resources are rapidly decreasing and our environment is being increasingly degraded by human activities. Prevention is better than cure. Hence, protecting our environment is economically more viable than cleaning it up after its damage.

To create environmental awareness, some international conferences were held.

- **Stockholm Conference:** The first international conference sponsored by

United Nations Environmental Agency at Stockholm in 1972.

- **The Earth Summit 1992 :** Held at Riode Janerio, Brazil in 1992.

- **Global Summit :** Summit on sustainable development held at Johannesburg (South Africa) in 2002.

To create awareness on environment June 5th was declared as "**World Environment Day**" and adopted by all countries.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Which is referred as 'Mother nature'

- a) Earth b) Moon c) Environment d) Sun

2. Earths resources are
 - a) Infinite
 - b) Finite
 - c) Limitless
 - d) none.
3. Indiscriminate application of technological innovations leads to
 - a) Higher economic growth
 - b) Higher productivity
 - c) Environmentaldegradation
 - d) Higher economic growth and environmental degradation.
4. Deforestation leads to
 - a) Soil erosion
 - b) Floods
 - c) Dry rivers
 - d) All the above.
5. The most species rich group of organisms are
 - a) Flowering plants
 - b) Insects
 - c) All plants
 - d) Flowering plants and insects.
6. The Head quarter of Bombay Natural History Society is
 - a) Chennai
 - b) New Delhi
 - c) Calcutta
 - d) Mumbai
7. Hand Book on Birds is authored by
 - a) J. C. Daniels
 - b) Dr. Salim Ali
 - c) P. V. Bole
 - d) S.H. Prater
8. The author of the Book of Indian Reptiles is
 - a) J. C. Daniels
 - b) Dr. Salim Ali
 - c) P. V. Bole
 - d) S. H. Prater
9. The Book of Indian Mammals was written by
 - a) J. C. Daniels
 - b) Dr. Salim Ali
 - c) P. V. Bole
 - d) S. H. Prater
10. The athor of the Book of Indian Trees is
 - a) J. C. Daniels
 - b) Dr. Salim Ali
 - c) P. V. Bole
 - d) S. H. Prater
11. Dr. Salim Ali is a famous
 - a) Scientist
 - b) Entamologist
 - c) Nematologist
 - d) Ornithologist
12. The Head quarter of WWF-I is
 - a) Mumbai
 - b) Delhi
 - c) Lucknow
 - d) Calcutta
13. The Nature clubs of India is run by
 - a) BHNS
 - b) CSE
 - c) WWF-I
 - d) CEE

14. The Journal Down to Earth is published by
a) BHNS b) CSE c) WWF-I d) CEE
15. The Head quarter of the Wild life Institute of India is
a) Mumbai b) Delhi c) Lucknow d) Dehradun
16. The Institution involved in Forest research and training of forest officials is
a) Bombay Natural History Society
b) World Wide Fund for Nature-India.
c) The World Life Institute of India
d) Centre for science and Environment
17. The Head quarter of the Botanical Survey of India is
a) Mumbai b) Delhi c) Lucknow d) Calcutta
18. The Head quarter of Zoological survey of India is
a) Mumbai b) Delhi c) Lucknow d) Calcutta
19. The author of the book, Origin of species is
a) Ralph Emerson b) Charles Darwin
c) Henry Thoreau d) E.O. Wilson
20. The major Conservation NGO of USA, the Sierra Club was formed by
a) John Mair b) E.O. Wilson c) Charles Darwin d) Ralph Emerson
21. The book, Silent spring was written by
a) Charles Darwin b) E.O. Wilson c) Salim Ali d) Rachel Carson
22. The book, Diversity of Life is authored by
a) Charles Darwin b) E.O. Wilson c) Salim Ali d) Rachel Carson
23. Fall of a Sparrow is an autobiography of
a) Charles Darwin b) E.O. Wilson c) Salim Ali d) Rachel Carson
24. Lifescapes of Peninsular India is edited by
a) M.C. Mehta b) Madhav Gadgil c) Anil Agarwal d) S.P. Godrej

25. The most famous environmental lawyer is
a) M.C. Mehta b) Madhav Gadgil c) Anil Agarwal d) S.P. Godrej
26. The first report on the State of India's Environment was written by
a) M.C. Mehta b) Madhav Gadgil c) Anil Agarwal d) S.P. Godrej
27. Rural India's Champion who is fighting for the environment and people affected by the Dams on the Narmada River is
a) M.C. Mehta b) Madhav Gadgil c) Anil Agarwal d) Medha Patkar
28. The Organizer of the Chipko Movement is
a) M.C. Mehta b) Madhav Gadgil c) Anil Agarwal d) Sundarlal Bahuguna

ANSWERS TO MCQs

1. (a) 2. (b) 3. (d) 4. (d) 5. (d) 6. (d) 7. (b) 8. (a) 9. (d) 10. (c)
11.(d) 12.(b) 13.(c) 14.(b) 15.(d) 16.(c) 17.(d) 18.(d) 19.(b) 20. (d)
21.(d) 22.(b) 23.(c) 24.(b) 25.(a) 26.(c) 27.(d) 28.(d)

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