

CBSE Test Paper 05

Class 12 - Political Science (B-1 Ch-8 Environment and Natural Resources)

1. Define indigenous population.
2. When was the Kyoto Protocol signed? Name one country which refused to sign it.
3. What does the phrase since times immemorial stand for?
4. Why have the issues relating to environmental degradation become part of world politics.
5. What do you mean by Commons?
6. Is there any difference between the perspective adopted by the rich and the poor nations to protect the Earth? Explain.
7. What is meant by 'common property'?
8. Water is a crucial resource to global politics. Explain with examples.
9. Describe any four steps taken by India to improve the environment.
10. What is meant by 'Common but differentiated responsibilities'? How could we implement the idea?
11. Diversity is an important trait of contemporary environmental movements. Explain.
12. Explain any five environmental concerns in global politics.
13. Analyse India's stand on different environmental issues.

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Answer

1. Indigenous population is tribals or native people whose interests and rights are imperialised by the foreign people who migrated from time to time in territories. The UN defines indigenous populations as comprising the descendants of peoples who inhabited the present territory of a country at the time when persons of a different culture or ethnic origin arrived there from other parts of the world and overcame them.
2. Kyoto Protocol was signed in 1997. The USA. refused to sign it.
3. The phrase 'since times immemorial' stands for indigenous people all over the world to refer to their continued occupancy of the lands from which they originate.
4. The issues relating to environmental degradation can not be addressed by one country alone. Thus, the issues relating to environmental degradation become part of world politics as shared action is necessary to deal with them.
5. Commons are community assets shared, protected and preserved by every individual in the community freely.
6. Yes, there is a difference between the perspective adopted by the rich and the poor nations to protect the Earth at Rio-Summit:
 - i. The rich countries were known as Global North whereas the poor countries were called Global South.
 - ii. Northern states showed concern on environmental issues like ozone depletion and global warming whereas southern states showed concern for economic aspects such as economic development and also on the management of the environment.
7. Common property can be defined as community's natural resource, where every member has right of access and usage with specified obligations, without anybody having property rights over them. It represents common property for the group. The members of the group have both rights and duties with respect to the nature, levels of use, and maintenance of a given resource.

8. Water has become another crucial resource in global politics due to the following reasons:

- Regional variations and increasing scarcity of fresh water in some parts of the world may lead to disagreements over shared water resources as a leading source of conflicts in 21st century.
- It is feared that there might be "water war" to describe the possibility of violent conflicts over this life sustaining resource i.e. a excessive irrigation, or construction of dams which degrade the quality of water available to downstream states.
- States have used force to seize fresh water resources i.e, in 1950, struggle between Israel, Syria and Jordan and 1960s over attempts by each side to divert water from the Jordan and Yarmuk rivers.
- The more recent threats between Turkey, Syria and Iraq over the construction of Dams on Euphrates river.

9. The Indian government is participating in global efforts through a number of programmes:

- i. India's National Auto-fuel policy mandates cleaner fuels for vehicles.
- ii. The Energy Conservation Act, passed in 2001, outlines initiatives to improve energy efficiency.
- iii. The Electricity Act, 2003 encourages the use of renewable energy.
- iv. Recent trends in importing natural gas and encouraging the adoption of clean coal technologies show that India is making real efforts.

10. 'Common but differentiated responsibility' is a principle which was given in the Rio Summit 1992.

We could implement the idea with the help of conventions and declarations:

- i. The Rio-Summit held in June 1992 produced conventions dealing with climate change, biodiversity, forestry and recommended a list of developed practices called Agenda 21.
- ii. The Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement setting targets for industrialised countries to cut their greenhouse gas emissions. Certain gases like Carbon dioxide,

Methane, Hydro-fluoro carbons etc. are considered at least partly responsible for global warming - the rise in global temperature which may have catastrophic consequences for life on Earth. The protocol was agreed to in 1997 in Kyoto in Japan, based on principles set out in UNFCCC.

11. Diversity is an important trait of contemporary environmental movements as mentioned below:

- a. There are forest movements in Mexico, Chile, Brazil, Malaysia. Indonesia, Continental Africa and India are faced with enormous pressure. Forest clearing in the Third World continues at an alarming rate despite three decades of environmental activism.
- b. Mineral industry's extraction of earth, its use of chemicals, its clearance of native vegetation and its displacement of communities continue to invite criticism and resistance in various parts of the globe. Much opposition to the company in its own country, Australia, is based on anti-nuclear sentiments and advocacy for the basic rights of Australian indigenous peoples.
- c. There are struggles and movements against the construction of mega-dams such as Narmada Bachao Andolan in India. Increasingly anti-dam movements are pro river movement for more sustainable and equitable management of river systems and valleys. The early 1980s saw the first anti-dam movement launched in the North, namely, the campaign to save the Franklin River and its surrounding forests in Australia.

12. Some environmental issues have been considered as global issues:

- i. Natural resources are being depleted i.e. the cultivable area has not been sustained anymore, agricultural land lost fertility and grasslands have been overgrazed. Overexploitation of non-renewable resources has created these issues.
- ii. Waterbodies have suffered a depletion and pollution both, which is resulting in an acute shortage of water resources.
- iii. A steady decline in ozone layer also poses a threat to the ecosystem and human health. It has been seen recently that the size of this hole is increasing. It is a great threat.

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- iv. Natural forests stabilize the climate, moderate water supply and habitat various species also which are also being lost creating destruction to biodiversity through industrial pollution etc.
 - v. Due to land-based activities, coastal pollution is also increasing which affects fisheries.
13. India plays a dominating role among Asian countries on environmental issues. India has been struggling with lots of environmental problems like air pollution, water pollution, global warming etc. India has taken the following steps to counter with these environmental issues:
- i. India signed and ratified the 1997 Kyoto Protocol in August 2002 which emphasised to follow the principle common but differentiated responsibility.
 - ii. India feels this convention is the very spirit of UNFCCC. Neither does it seem fair to impose restrictions on India when the country's rise in per capita carbon emissions by 2030 is likely to still represent less than half the world average.
 - iii. The Indian government is also keen to launch a National Mission on Biodiesel which makes India have one of the largest renewable energy programmes in the world.
 - iv. The government is also participating in global efforts through a number of programmes i.e. National Auto Fuel Policy, Electricity Act 2003, Energy Conservation Act, 2001, etc.

Recent years have seen a shift in India's approach to negotiations within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as more advanced climate policy action in the national and sub-national areas.