

## Chapter :1

### Economic geography:Matter and Resources

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#### **PART-II: GEOGRAPHY**

#### **Textual Questions And Answers Exercise**

**Q1.** What is economic geography? What is its main subject matter ? Mention the important branches of economic geography.

Ans.Economic geography is the branch of geography which studies human activities related to production, distribution, consumption and exange of resources with respect to spatial and temporal aspects .

- (i) Production of resources
- (ii) Distribution of resources
- (iii) Consumption of resources
- (iv) Exchange of resources

None of these economic activities of man can take place without resources . Therefore, the availability of resources, their development and utilisation is the principal subject matter of economic geography.

The main branches of economic geography are:

- (i) Agriculture geography.
- (ii) Industrial geography.
- (iii) Geography of resources.
- (iv) Transport geography.
- (v) Marketing geography.
- (vi) Geography of planning and development.
- (vii) Geography of tourism.

**Q 2.** Write in brife about the scope of economic geography.

Ans. George Chisholm, the father of modern economic geography, has defined that the main scope and objctive of economic geography is to determine the economic development trend and direction of a place. While economic geographers C.F. jones and G.G. Darkenwald, have said that the subject is about man's productive occupations or activities and deals with the finding out of answers to why certain religion are more advanced in production and export while others in import and trade. Thus it can said that the study of economic geography deals with the relationship between man's productive activities and environmental conditions. The scope of economic geography can be

defined to lie in the following five question under two broad division.

[I] Traditional Economic Geography:

- (i) Where is the economic activity located?
- (ii) What are the characteristics of the economic activity?
- (iii) To what other phenomena is the economic activity related?

[II] Modern Economic Geography:

- (i) Why is the economic activity located where it is?
- (ii) Would it not be better located elsewhere?

The economic activity of man that comes under the scope of study of Economic Geography can be classified into four types:

- (i) primary occupations: Those activities by which man collects natural resources.
- (ii) secondary occupations: Those activities by which man transforms natural commodities into usable forms .

(iii) Tertiary occupations: Those activities by which commodities produced by primary and secondary activities are delivered to consumers.

Quaternary occupations: Those activities by which secondary and tertiary activities are made more easy and productive.

**Q 3.** What do you mean by economic activities of man ?  
What are such economic activities?

**Ans:** Economic activities or occupations of man the various activities that man perform to earn his living to sustain his life on earth. The various economic activities/occupations of man are:

(i) primary activities: Activities by which people collect necessary items such as food , clothing, etc. from the natural environment and use them directly are known as primary activities. e.g agriculture, collecting of food from forests, mining , fishing ,etc.

(ii) secondary activities: Activities by which people use raw materials supplied by primary activity to transform them into useable form with the aid of technology are known as secondary activities. e.g. trade, commerce, business industrial production, etc.

(iii) Tertiary activities: Activities by which people supply primary or secondary to the user and connect producer and consumers are known as Tertiary activities. e.g.

transport, communication, services, wholesale or retail selling, tourism activity, etc.

(iv) Quaternary activities: Activities

which some degree of skill, intelligence, foresight, expertise, etc. are known as quaternary activities. e.g. banking and financial services, publicity media, administration, education and research, etc.

**Q 4.** Write briefly about the subject matter of the important branches of economic geography.

**Ans:** The subject matter of the important branches of economic geography are:

(i) Agricultural geography : Agricultural geography mainly studies factors associated with agricultural activity, crop production and its associated theory, marketing, export and import of industrial goods, etc.

(ii) Industrial Geography: Industrial geography studies factors associated with establishment of industry, types of industry, geographical distribution of industries, production of industrial goods, localisation of industries, marketing, export-import of industrial goods, etc.

(iii) Geography of resources: Geography of resources studies types of resources, relation and distribution of resources, exploration and production of resources, relationships between resources and development, conservation and management of resources, etc.

(iv) Transport geography: Transport geography primary includes factors associated with the types of Transport system, role of Transport on resources distribution,

movement and economic activities of man, economic development like industrial development, agricultural development, etc.

(v) Geography of marketing: Geography of marketing covers factors associated with instabilities markets, types of distribution of markets and related theories, etc.

(vi) Geography of planning and development: Geography of planning and development studies factors related to economic development, planning strategies, sustainable development, regional and resources-based development process, etc.

(vii) Geography of tourism: Geography of tourism deals with factors related to tourism and types of tourism, development and planning process of tourism system, etc.

**Q 5.** Why is 'resources geography' known as an important branch of economic geography?

**Ans:** The economic development of a country is so closely associated with the quality of resources available in that country and their proper utilisation. Moreover, the study of economic geography and all of its branches and sub-branches is directly related to geography of

resources. It is in this context that resources are considered as an important branch of economic geography.

**Q 6.** What is meant by 'resource'? Mention its characteristics.

**Ans:** A source of wealth, revenue, supply or support essential for the function of living organisms and ecosystems is known as a resource. In other words, things that satisfy various human needs are known as resources. It is defined as a country's collective means of support. Natural things available in nature like air, water, sunrays, soil, plants, mineral, fish, etc. Found on the earth are considered as resources because they help human existence on earth in one way or the other. According to a famous economist Zimmerman, the main characteristics/properties of a resource are:

(i) **Utility:** Resources should be useful to man in one way or other. It should satisfy some of his needs required for living.

(ii) **Functionality:** Every resource has certain functionality, i.e. it should have certain function or usefulness. Thus, each resource has a unique usefulness of its own.

**Q 7.** 'Resource is dynamic'. Explain.

Ans: One of the significant feature of a resource is its dynamic aspect. Sometimes, a commodity found in nature may not be useful today, but during a later period of time, it may become a useful item and turn into resource. Such materials are called natural stuff. e.g. the

ocean water may not be of much use today, but it is expected that this water may have substances which may be beneficial to mankind. In the same way, some of the presently useful resources may become useless when some other alternative commodities are discovered. Mineral oil is a highly useful resource today and without it, the economic development of a country cannot take place. But the discovery of an alternate source which is cheap and easily available can make this wonderful resource, a useless one in the near future. Hence, the utility of a resource is temporary and can change with time.

The commodities that are harmful to man are called resistance. e.g. the flood water of Damodar river caused a great deal of harm and damage to human life and property. But when this flood water was controlled by suitable check dams, the water became highly useful resource which enhanced human habitation and agricultural. Thus, a resistance can become resource. Therefore, in this context we can say that is dynamic.

**Q 8.** Briefly discuss about the necessity of resources with example?



Ans: Resources help man in numerous ways. Following are some of the necessities of resources:

(i) Improve living condition: The availability of resources not only fulfill the primary needs of man, i.e. food

clothing and shelter but also satisfy many other requirements. This improves the overall living condition or standard of living of man .e.g. agricultural product like rice wheat etc.serves man with his food as well as help him in earning his livelihood.

(ii) socio-economic development : No country can ever progress Resources such as minerals, agricultural crops, forest products, human resources, etc.

Hence, the socio-economic development of a country is greatly dependent on the availability of resources.

(iii) Human welfare : The progress of Human society is directly associated with resources and their proper utilisation. Resources satisfy the various needs of man required for his living.

**Q 9.** Write in brief about the relationship between resource and man.

Ans: There is a closer relationship between resource and man. One cannot survive or develop without the other. Man is associated with resource in two different ways:

(i) As a producer of resource: man is the ultimate producer of resource. Although many of the resources useful to to be man are provided by nature, but most of them are found in their raw form or not in a useful state. Such resources are transformed by man according

to his requirement into more consumable forms. Mineral resources, forest resources, water resources, agricultural resources, etc. cannot be developed without the active support of man. Hence, man is the prime mover of all resources e.g. resources produced by man include technology, house, roads, industries, school, office, vehicle, etc.

(ii) As a consumer of resources : Man is a consumer resource. Man consumes or uses various food crops, cloth, mineral oils and various other man-made commodities. Man cannot live a normal life on the earth without the use of essential elements for supporting life on earth.

Besides, man is considered as a resource himself. How the natural resources or man-made resources are used or developed by man depends on man himself. Human knowledge and its extent are responsible for the level of development of resources. Even the dynamic nature of a resource is dependent on human demand and development of new technology by man.

**Q 10.** Briefly discuss about the relationship between resource and science- technology.

Ans: Resources and science-technology are closely associated with each other. The interrelationships between the two can be understood from the following:

(i) Discovery of resources: Science has enabled man to discover almost all the resources. Many of the mineral

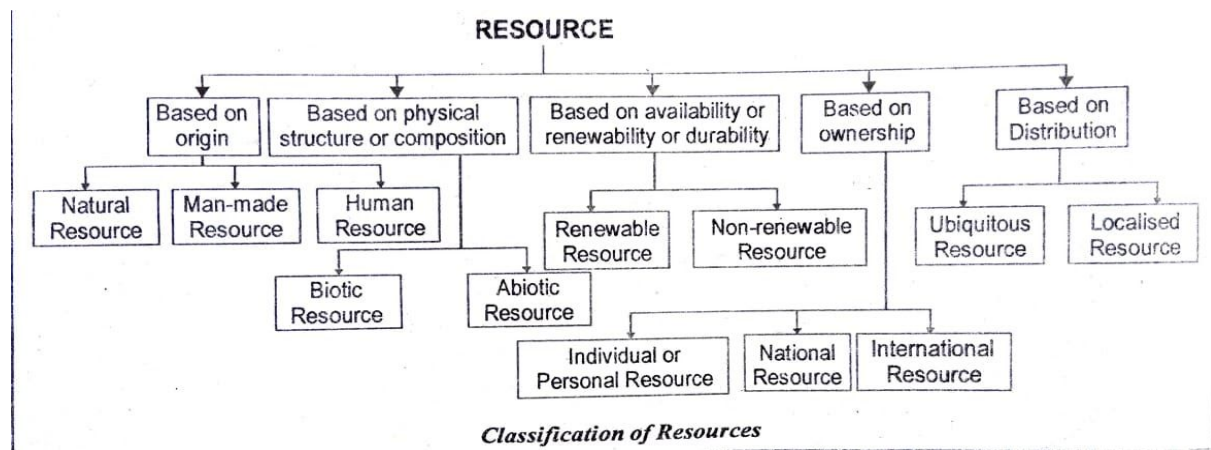
resources that we use today may have remained buried deep within the earth, had they not been extracted by using modern scientific technology.

(2) Transformations of natural stuff : due to the development of science and technology, many of the natural stuff and resources found on the earth are getting transformed into resources, through the application of human skills and efforts.

(3) Better utilisation of resources: science and technology has facilitated better utilisation of existing resources. New uses of many of the existing resources are discovered by scientists and researchers, thereby making the existing resources more useful and beneficial to man.

**Q 11.** Write about classification of resources with examples.

Ans.



The classification of resources can be explained on the basis of:

#### [A] Origin

(i) Natural resources : The resources which after natural formation remain distributed on the earth are called natural resources. e.g. water, air, sunlight, land, mineral, soil, plants, animals, rivers etc.

(ii) Man-made resources : the various commodities produced from natural resources using modern science and technology by man are called Man -made resources.e.g. paper from bamboo, cloth from cottons, synthetic rubber, medicines, fertilisers, etc.

(iii) human resources : The population of a country which is capable of making use of the resources efficiently and productively are known as human resources .The most important resources of a country is its human resources.

[B] physical structure or composition :

(i) Biotic resources : The resources which have life are called Biotic resources.

e.g. plants, animals, fishes, crops, etc.

(ii) Abiotic resources : The resources which do not have life are called Abiotic resources. e.g. soil, rock, water, air, mineral, sand, ect.

[C] Availability or renewability or durability :

(i) Renewable resource : The resources which do not get depleted on use and can be used again through the process of regeneration are called renewable resources. e.g. sunshine, water, soil, ect.

(ii) National resources : the resources under the responsibility or possession of a country are called National resources. e.g. transport for network, land, river, minerals, animals of the forest, agricultural crops, various manufactured goods, people, etc.

(iii) international resources : the national resources belonging to different countries which are under the possession of the whole world are called international resources.

e.g. oceans, sea, atmosphere, forests, etc.

[E] Distribution :

(i) Ubiquitous resources : The resources that are found all over the world are called Ubiquitous resources. e.g. sunshine, heat, air, space, sky, ect.

(ii) Localised resources : the resources which are found only in certain parts of the world are known as Localised resources. e.g. minerals such as iron ore petroleum, uranium, coal, ect

Note: some resources are found to overlap with one another, e.g. plant is a natural resources and also a biotic resources and renewable resource. Similarly ,

gold is a natural, abiotic, non-renewable, individual or National resources.

**Q 12.** What is meant by natural resources? Write briefly with examples.

Ans: Natural resources are those resources which after natural formation remain distributed on the earth. These can be in solid, liquid or gaseous States, and metallic or non metallic form. Many natural resources are used as they are available , while others are as raw materials for different industries. Examples of natural resources are air, water , sunlight, land, minerals, natural gas, plant animals, river, oceans, etc.

**Q 13.** What is man-made resources? Write in briefly about its use with examples.

Ans: Man-made resources are those resources which are made from natural resources with the application of human effort. The resources are made by man by converting natural resources into more useable commodities by modern science and technology. Examples of such resources are making of paper from plants; metals from ores; ect.

**Q 14.**What are the different between renewable and non-renewable resources? Discuss briefly with examples .

Asn: The different between renewable and non-renewable are:

Sl. No.	Basis of difference	Renewable resource	Non-renewable resource
(i)	Meaning	Resources which can be regenerated or renewed after use.	Resources which cannot be regenerated or renewed after use.
(ii)	Exhaustibility	Do not get exhausted after use or can be regenerated.	Gradually get exhausted and cannot be regenerated.
(iii)	Examples	Air, sunshine, water, crops, etc.	Coal, oil, natural gas, various types of minerals, etc.

**Q 15.** What is meant by ' conversation of resources' ?  
What its necessary?

Ans: Conversation of resources is the process of preservation and judicious use of resources to achieve maximum utility, abovid waste ful consumption and missuse.

Following are the reason leading to the nescessity of conversation of resources :

(i) Limited resources : Resources provided by nature are unevenly distributed and their supply is also limited. There is not single country which has all the resources. This calls for conservation and proper utilisation of resources that a country has. Many of the resources that man uses today are non-renewable or exhaustible resources. Hence, a planned use of the limited resources is required so that they last for a long time.

(ii) Rising population : With the rapid expansion of population, the demand for various resources is also

rising. Increased population is depleting the existing resources rapidly. Although the countries such as the USA, Canada, Japan, Germany, England, etc. are not thickly populated, the use of natural resources is very high in these countries due to their economic advancement. Even in the developing countries like India and China, the extent of use of the mineral resources such as coal, oil, natural gas, copper, iron, bauxite, etc. is quite high. All these call for planning and conservation of resources.

(iii) Protection of endangered species : As a result of improper use of various resources and environment pollution, many species of plants and animals are becoming endangered and extinct. The total population of animals like tiger, elephant, lion, rhino, etc. is decreasing. Valuable plant species of Assam such as Sarpagandha, Chalmugra, Kamegh, Arjun, etc. are on



the verge of becoming extinct. Similarly, animals such as golden langur, hoolock gibbon, wild buffalo, etc. are also becoming endangered species. The destruction of such Biotic resources can bring about certain negative impact on the biosphere. Therefore, there is an urgent need to conserve all living and non-living resources of the earth in a judicious manner.

(iv) Avoid pollution: The extraction and processing of resources often lead to environmental pollution. The use of chemicals, fertilisers, pesticides, vehicles, etc. and

the increased use of mineral resources such as oil, coal, natural gas, etc. causes a great deal of environmental pollution, which in turn leads to health hazards. Therefore, there has to be a planned use of resources minimising their harmful effects.

**Q 16.** Write in brief about the methods of resources conservation.

Ans. The various methods of resources conservation are :

(i) Discovery of alternative resources : One of the ways to the overuse of resources is to find out the alternative resources having similar qualities or features. This requires an extensive study and research. e.g. use of synthetic fibre in place of cotton, electric power in place of petrol or diesel in vehicles, etc. Moreover, solar

energy, hydroelectricity, biogas, etc. Should be used instead of coal, oil, minerals, etc. to reduce the overuse of non-renewable resources.

(ii) Recycling : The use of raw materials can be reduced by reusing the useable disposed garbages through the process of recycling .e.g. recycling of used water or paper, etc.

(iii) Innovation: With the help of necessary study and recherche, many innovative methods can be applied to make better and effective use of available resources . This helps in reducing the misuse of raw materials and

enhances resources production.e.g.chemical fertilisers can be replaced by organic fertilisers.

(iv) Waste control : If the wastes are properly collected and scientifically treated, a lot of new product can be obtained. e.g. the waste water from factories and city drains can be treated and converted into clean water again by using certain scientific methods.

(v) Spread of knowledge regarding conversation : A great deal of conversation can take place if the public aware of the need for convsering the vital resources of a country through public awareness Campinas, seminars, public involved management of resources, ect.

(vi) Enforcement of conversation related acts : Fore the proper Conversation of resources there should be proper laws to ban to their misuse. The government

must make sure that the acts are strictly implemented and stringent actions are taken against those who break such laws.

(vii) proper assessment of resources reserve : proper assessment of resources is essential for the development of any nation. Once the authorities know the extent of Availability of the resources, they can plan the such available resources.

(viii) Assessment of Future requirement: it is only important for calculate the extent of the availability of the resources , but it is equally important to estimate the

future requirement of such resources, so that planned use of resources can be undertaken.

**Q 17.** Write in brief about the organisation associated with resources conservation and their role.

**Ans.** Rapid of population, overuse of existing resources, growing environmental problems caused by unscientific use of resources, etc. have resulted in the depletion of many vital resources of the world. Without adequate amount of resources, life on earth will become difficult and no country can progress or develop. Therefore, many international organisation have been established to take steps to conserve existing resources and to reduce environmental pollution caused by use of resources. In this context, the following organisations deserve a special mention:

(i) IUCN: IUCN stands for international union for conservation of nature. It was formed in 1948 and has played a commendable role in preserving and conserving the existing resources of the world. It was founded by the British Biologist, Julian Huxley, the founder Director General of UNESCO. The main aim of this organisation is to carry out study and research on conservation of global natural environment and natural resources including biodiversity and initiate suitable measures. It works under the direction of UNO. IUCN established two international organisations, viz. WWF for Nature (World Wide Fund for Nature) and World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

(ii) Minister of Environment, Forest and climate change: In India, Minister of Environment Forest climate change has been established to coordinate the work of Conservation of Natural resources. It is responsible for the laws related to environment protection and conservation of Natural resources. As part of this ministry, an autonomous institution named Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education was established in 1986.

(iii) non-governmental agencies: Non-governmental agencies like Center for Science and Environment (CSE), Greenpeace India, Wildlife Trust of India, etc. work for protection of environment in India. In Assam, non-governmental agencies like Assam Science Society, Aaranyal, etc. have taken up the cause of environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, etc.

Q 18.(a) Resources.

Ans: Do Your Self

(b) Human resources.

Ans. Human resources means the population of a country made valuable through education, training and experience or in other words made capable of making

use of other resources efficiently. Human resources constitutes the most important resources of a nation. Most of the countries of Europe and America are developed mainly due to the development of their human resources. The human resources in these countries are developed because of better education and training. Man is the prime mover of resources. Without him no resources can develop. Despite scarcity of natural resources and raw- materials required for industries, countries like Japan, Switzerland, Singapore, Taiwan, South Korea, etc. have made great progress in every aspect of economic activity, mainly because of human resources development.

(c) Wealth.

Ans. All economic goods which can satisfy human wants and have value -in - exchange are called wealth. Some of the features of wealth are :

(i) Wealth possesses the features of utility as it has the power to satisfy human wants.

(ii) The supply of Wealth is limited.

(iii) Wealth can be transferred from one individual to another through money or value.

All kinds of wealth can be regarded as a resource but all resources may not be regarded as wealth.e.g. wealth like land,

buildings, machineries, etc.which have market value, can be regarded as resources but resources like air, soil education, social institutions, public health, etc .are not wealth because some of these are found in abundance, and others cannot be exchange and do not have market value.

Again, the of resources bring about human welfare, but wealth, but wealth may have both useful or harmful effects. e.g. substance like poison, chemical insecticides, alcohol, etc. are considered as wealth because they can be sold for money, but the use of such substance is highly damagerous to man, so such materials cannot be treated as resources.

(b) Renewable resource.

Ans: Do your Self

(e) Personal resource.

Ans: Do your Self

(f) National resources.

Ans: Do your Self

(g) Biotic resource.

Ans: Do your Self

(h) Resources conservation.

Ans: The planning and management of natural resources so as to secure their wise use and continuity of supply, while maintaining and enhancing their quality, value and diversity is known as resources conservation. The main objective of the concept of resources conservation is the collection and utilisation of necessary resources from the nature in such a way so that benefit can be derived from them for a long time. Many of the mineral, animals and plant resources are depleting at a very fast rate. Since many of these resources cannot be credited or increased, there is an urgent need to conserve alternative resources, recycling, Innovation, waste control, enforcement of conservation related acts, etc.

(I) Resources recycling.

Ans: Do your Self

(ii) IUCN.

Asn: Do your Self

**Q 19.** Write the difference between:

(a) Resource and wealth.

Ans: The difference between resource and wealth:

Sl. No.	Basis of difference	Resource	Wealth
(i)	Meaning	A source of wealth, revenue, supply or support essential for the functioning of all living organisms and ecosystems.	Anything that has value-in-exchange or price.
(ii)	Supply	Supply of certain resources like air, ocean, water, sunshine, etc. are unlimited.	Supply of wealth is limited.
(iii)	Exchange	May or may not be exchanged for a price.	Can be transferred or exchanged for money.
(iv)	Use	Are always useful to man.	Can be useful or harmful to man.

(b) Economic geography and resources geography.

Ans: The difference between economic geography and resources geography:



Sl. No.	Basis of difference	Economic geography	Resource geography
(i)	Meaning	The branch of human geography in which the study of human activities related to production, distribution, consumption and exchange of resources is done with respect to space and time.	The study which deals with the production, distribution and consumption of resources.
(ii)	Scope	It has a wider scope than resource geography as it includes agricultural geography, industrial geography, transport geography, marketing geography, resource geography and geography of tourism.	It is relatively narrower than economic geography as it is only a part of economic geography.

(c) Resources and natural stuff.

Ans: The difference between resource and natural stuff:

Sl. No.	Basis of difference	Resource	Neutral stuff
(i)	Meaning	A source of wealth, revenue, supply or support essential for the functioning of all living organisms and ecosystems.	The materials found on the earth which are neither useful nor harmful to man.
(ii)	Usefulness	Resources are useful in the present day.	Neutral stuff may be of use as a resource in the future.
(iii)	Examples	Air, water, soil, plants, minerals, etc.	Ocean water.

(d) Biotic and abiotic resource.

Ans: The differences between biotic and abiotic resource are:

Sl. No.	Basis of difference	Biotic resource	Abiotic resource
(i)	Meaning	The resources of nature which have life.	The resources of nature which do not have life.
(ii)	Examples	Plants, animals, man, fish, crops, etc.	Stone, sand, soil, minerals, etc.

(e) Renewable and non-renewable resource.

Ans: Do Your Self

(f) Personal resource and no national resource.

Ans: The differences between personal resource and National resource are:

Sl. No.	Basis of difference	Personal resource	National resource
(i)	Meaning	The things under possession of a person or an individual.	The resource under the responsibility or possession of a country.
(ii)	Examples	Land, household properties, ornaments, money and personal attributes like good character, education, knowledge, working skill, etc.	Plants, animals, forests, transport networks, land, rivers, buildings, educational institutions, administrative systems, etc.

(g) Man-made resource and human resource.

Ans: The differences between man-made resource and human resource are

Sl. No.	Basis of difference	Man-made resource	Human resource
(i)	Meaning	The resources which have been formed by human effort as a result of the application of science, technology, skill of man, etc.	The people of a country capable of making use of other resources efficiently and productively.
(ii)	Examples	Paper from bamboo, cloth from cotton, different types of paints, fertilisers, soap, plastic, etc.	Man himself is a human resource.

(h) Recycling of resource and innovation of resource.

Ans: The difference between recycling of resource and innovation of resource are:

Sl. No.	Basis of difference	Recycling of resource	Innovation of resource
(i)	Meaning	The process by which wastes of natural and man-made resources are broken down and then reconstituted into useful materials.	The process by which resources are produced as a result of extensive research and a lot of field study leading to the conversion of natural resources into highly useful items.
(ii)	Examples	Used water, factory wastes, scrap, worn out tyres, waste paper, etc.	The use of rain harvesting method to store water for various domestic purposes is a type of innovation.

Q 20. Choose the correct answer:

(a) Which of the following is man-made resource?

- 1). Rivers    3) Irrigation canal  
2) mineral oil.    4) Forest

Ans: 3) Irrigation canal

b) Which one of the following is abiotic resource?

- 1) Air                      2) plants  
3) Animals.    4) Fungus

Ans: 1) Air

(C) Which one the following is non-renewable resource?

- 1) Air            2) water

3) crops 4) coal

Ans. Coal

Q (d) which one of the following Animals is about to be extinct?

1) One- horned rhino. 2) pigmy hog

3) Giraffe. 4) Gayla (Mithun)

Ans: (2) pigmy hog

(e) The organisation IUCN is under which of the following organisations?

1) UNESCO. 2). UNDP

3) WWF. 4) UNEP

Ans: 1) UNESCO