

MAIN POINTS

- It is an article written by Nani Palkhiwala .
- The article shows earth as an ailing planet whose condition is getting critical day by day.
- Issues of depletion of environment is highlighted and more over the green movement.
- Human race has become the most dangerous and destructive force in the world.
- We are promoting modernization, urbanisation and industrialisation at the cost of a healthy environment.
- Population and deforestation have widely contributed to the destruction of the planet Earth.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

- The president of the World Resource Institute is ____.**
 - James Speth
 - Michael pow
 - Nani palkhivala
 - none of these.
- The author has compared Earth to ____.**
 - patient
 - doctor
 - scientist
 - God
- The Green movement shifted the focus from a mechanistic view to a holistic and ____.**
 - ecological view
 - technical view
 - traditional view
 - none of these
- The world's first nationwide Green party was founded in ____.**
 - Australia
 - Poland
 - New Zealand
 - Ireland
- "Scientists have catalogued about _____ living species with which mankind shares the earth".**
 - 1.2 million
 - 1.4 million
 - 1.6 million
 - 1.8 million
- At what rate is the world's ancient patrimony of tropical forests eroding?**
 - two million per year
 - forty to fifty million acres a year
 - sixty million per year
 - none of the above
- A recent report of our parliament's Estimates Committee has highlighted the near caatastrophic depletion of India's forest over--**
 - 3 decades
 - 5 decades
 - 4 decades
 - 7 decades
- What is one of the reasons for the exploitation of the environment?**
 - river pollution
 - noise pollution
 - increasing population
 - industrial waste
- The four principal biological systems are fisheries, forest, grasslands and ____.**
 - croplands
 - barren land
 - grassland
 - none of these
- The "transcending concern" means the concerns which leave behind many ____.**
 - petty concerns
 - domestic concerns
 - political concerns
 - none of these.
- The book "The Global Economic Prospect" is written by ____.**
 - James Speth.
 - Margret Thatcher
 - Lester R Brown
 - Albert Einstein
- What is the concept of sustainable development?**
 - Development of future
 - Development of present
 - Development that meets the needs of the present,without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.
 - None of these
- Where was the message "the world's most dangerous animal" written?**
 - Board
 - Mirror
 - Wood
 - Zoo in Alaska
- When did the green movement raise awareness about the harmful condition of earth ?**
 - 1992
 - 1972
 - 1987
 - 1970

15. **When was Sustainable Development used by the World Commission on Environment and Development?**
 a. 1987 b. 1992
 c. 1990 d. 1986
16. **“Who raised the question “Are we to leave our successors a scorched planet of advancing deserts, impoverished landscapes and ailing environment?”**
 a. Brandt Commission
 b. Brundtland Commission
 c. UN World Commission
 d. None of the above
17. **What will the grasslands turn into if systems become unsustainable?**
 a. Turn into a barren wasteland
 b. Turn into desert
 c. Soil quality will deteriorate
 d. None of these.
18. **What is leading to deforestation at an alarming rate?**
 a. Sale of fuelwood
 b. Sale of vegetables
 c. Building up of houses
 d. None of the above
19. **What is the best contraceptive for overpopulation?**
 a. Development b. Education
 c. By saving water d. Reforestation
20. **Which article of the Constitution of India provides that “the State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country”?**
 a. Article 48A b. Article 51A
 c. Article 48 A (1) d. Article 5
21. **What does the three-year study conducted by the United Nations state?**
 a. Environment has deteriorated that it is critical in eighty-eight countries
 b. Forests are being cut down at an alarming rate
 c. There is not much of drinking water left
 d. Fossil fuels are getting exhausted at a faster rate
22. **Who said, “We have not inherited this earth from our forefathers; we have borrowed it from our children.”?**
 a. Margaret Thatcher
 b. Mr Edgar S. Woolard
 c. Mr. Lester Brown
 d. Brandt Commission
23. **When did the Green Movement start?**
 a. 35 years ago b. 15 years ago
 c. nearly 25 years ago d. 20 years ago
24. **Who said that tropical forests are “the powerhouse of evolution” ?**
 a. Edgar S Woolard b. L K Jha
 c. Dr Myres d. James Speth
25. **What is the transcending concern?**
 a. greenhouse gases
 b. the survival of forests
 c. the survival of the planet
 d. the survival of rivers
26. **What happens to the forests in poor countries?**
 a. They cut down for industrial use
 b. They cut down for doors and windows
 c. They are cut down for fuel wood
 d. None of the Above

ANSWER KEY

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

VERY SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. **Who has written the essay “The Ailing Planet : The Green Movement’s Role ” ?**
 Ans Nani Palkhivala.
2. **Which movement is being talked about in this essay ?**
 Ans Green Movement
3. **Who taught us that the earth and other planets revolve around the sun ?**
 Ans Copernicus
4. **Where is the zoo located ?**
 Ans At Lusaka, Zambia
5. **What is the name of the newspaper where this article was published?**
 Ans The Indian Express on 24th Nov 1994.

6. Which country had founded the Green Movement ?

Ans New Zealand in 1972

7. How many species excluding human beings live on the earth ?

Ans 1.4 million living species

8. What is written on the signboard outside the zoo ?

Ans The world's most dangerous animal.

9. Who has written the book " The Global Economic Prospect " ?

Ans Mr. Lester R. Brown

10. What are the four principal biological systems of the earth ?

Ans Fisheries, forests, grasslands and croplands.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. How has the concept of sustainable development been defined?

Ans. Sustainable development has been defined as the development that meets the needs of the present without putting in danger the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

2. What is the Green Movement? Why has it become popular all over the world?

Ans. The Green Movement was started in 1972 in New Zealand. It has informed the people that earth is a living organism which needs to be cared for. It tells us to co-operate and co-exist with other species. The Green Movement takes a holistic view of the situation and seeks to preserve the environment.

3. Who is 'the world's most dangerous animal'? Why is it called so?

Ans. Human beings are the most dangerous to the environment. They cause more destruction to the environment than any other species does.

4. We have not inherited this earth from our forefathers; we have borrowed it from our children. Explain.

Ans. Human beings are destroying the resources and the environment in the best possible way without thinking about the after effects. We need to practise sustainable development — development which meets the needs of the present and at the same time preserves the environment for future generations.

5. How is man depleting the sources of food and raw materials to an alarming level?

Ans. In large parts of the world, man is tapping all available natural resources to meet his needs. He is clearing the forests, overfishing in the seas, harming the pasturelands with his flocks of sheep and harvesting the maximum number of crops from the cultivating land.

6. Why does Nani Palkhivala call the earth 'The Ailing Planet'?

Ans. We clearly get signs that the earth is a patient in declining health. Its deserts are advancing, landscapes are being impoverished and the environment is ailing. Photography by satellites has revealed that the environment has deteriorated very badly in many parts of the world. In fact, it has become critical in many of the eighty eight countries investigated. The concept of sustainable development and green movement can help the ailing planet to survive.

7. How do the earth's biological systems behave on reaching an unsustainable level?

Ans. The productivity of the earth's biological systems is impaired on reaching an unsustainable level. Fisheries collapse, Forests disappear, Grasslands turn into barren wastelands and Croplands become worse.

8. Why is population control essential in India?

Ans. The population of India was estimated to be 920 million in 1994. Overpopulation upsets all plans of development and causes poverty and unemployment. So either the population is to be controlled or people would remain poor forever. Voluntary family planning can help population control in India.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. How does the problem of overpopulation directly affect our everyday life?

Ans. Overpopulation causes many problems in everyday life. The three basic human needs— food, cloth and shelter have assumed alarming proportions. Fisheries, forests, grasslands and croplands are under severe strain. In many areas they have reached an unsustainable level. People resort to overfishing to obtain protein. Forests are being destroyed to obtain firewood. Grasslands are becoming deserts. Overpopulation hinders development and adversely affects the spread of education and health care among the masses.

It is observed that the poor beget more children. It only leads them to unending poverty. Public transport proves insufficient. More children does not mean more workers but merely more people without work. Thus overpopulation leads to unemployment, poverty and illiteracy.

2. “Forests precede mankind; deserts follow”, Elaborate.

Ans. Forests are one of the most important biological systems of the earth. They came into existence much before mankind. In this sense forests precede mankind. We have inherited large tracts of forests from our forefathers. Forests are the powerhouse of evolution. Several species of life exist in them. The world’s ancient inheritance of tropical forests is now wearing away at the rate of forty to fifty million acres per year. In poor countries, local forests are being destroyed to procure fuel wood. It is the responsibility of the state to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife. However, large areas named as the forest land are now treeless. As the forests disappear, deserts will follow. We must take timely steps to prevent this.

3. How can overfishing and decimation of forests prove harmful?

Ans. Over-fishing is very common in this protein conscious and protein hungry world. It may lead to stripping the fisheries. Then man will lose a rich source of protein. The decimation of forests in many areas is for fuel wood, at some places “what goes under the pot costs more than what goes inside it. Decimation of forests will harm ecology. Moreover, several species of life that live in forest will face extinction. Ecosystem will get disturbed. Global warming is also an alarming result of deforestation.

4. Why do we need to plant more forests in India?

Ans. According to reliable data, India is losing its forests at the rate of 3.7 million acres a year. The large areas officially designated as forest land are already virtually treeless. The actual loss of forests is estimated to be about eight times the rate indicated by government data. Moreover a five times increase in the rate of forest planting is needed to cope with the expected fuel wood demand 5 years later.