

# GEOGRAPHY

Chapter 3: Land, Soil, Water, Natural Vegetation and  
Wildlife Resources



## Important Questions

### Multiple Choice Questions-

Question 1. Peter belongs to which country?

- (a) India
- (b) USA
- (c) Germany
- (d) New Zealand

Question 2. About how much in percentage does the total area of land area covered on the earth's surface?

- (a) 30%
- (b) 40%
- (c) 50%
- (d) 60%

Question 3. Use of land for different purpose of development such as agriculture forestry, mining, housing, etc. is termed as

- (a) Land conservation
- (b) Land use
- (c) Common property
- (d) Soil formation

Question 4. The mass movement of rock, debris or earth down a slope is simply known as

- (a) Earthquake
- (b) Avalanches
- (c) Landslides
- (d) Soil erosion

Question 5. What determines the thickness of the soil profile?

- (a) Time
- (b) Climate
- (c) Relief
- (d) Formation

Question 6. What do you mean by Biome?

- (a) Group of plants in areas having similar climatic condition.
- (b) Land covered with grass shrubs on which animals graze freely

- (c) Marginal land kept fallow for a certain period to restore their fertility
- (d) Breaking up and decaying of exposed rocks due to various factors.

Question 7. What do you mean by shelter belts?

- (a) Wind movement to protect soil cover
- (b) Wind movement to erosion
- (c) Belt for trees
- (d) None of these

Question 8. Where is the Kaziranga National Park is situated?

- (a) West Bengal
- (b) Manipur
- (c) Assam
- (d) Orissa

Question 9. Which one of the following is not in favor of the conservation of nature?

- (a) Switch off the bulb when not in use.
- (b) Close the tap immediately after using.
- (c) Dispose poly packs after shopping
- (d) Constructing Rock Dams

Question 10. Which one of the following is NOT a factor of soil formation?

- (a) Time
- (b) Soil texture
- (c) Organic matter
- (d) Mulching

Question 11. What is a biosphere reserve?

- (a) Protected area linked through global network
- (b) Land use for production
- (c) Farmers Land
- (d) None of these

Question 12. What do you understand by the term CPR?

- (a) Community Property Resources
- (b) Common property resources
- (c) Common planning resources
- (d) None of these

Question 13. Where can we find water market in India?

- (a) Bareilly
- (b) Amreli
- (c) Surat
- (d) None of these

Question 14. What is referred as the breaking up and decaying of exposed rocks by the?

- (a) Weathering
- (b) Formation
- (c) Erosion
- (d) None of these

Question 15. What does 'land use' refer to?

- (a) Use of land for many purposes
- (b) Land for sale
- (c) Mortgage Land
- (d) None of these

### Very Short:

1. What are the possible reasons behind the uneven distribution of population around the world?
2. Give three common forms of land use.
3. What human factors determine land use pattern?
4. Define soil.
5. What is required to make soil fertile?
6. What is parent rock?
7. What are the factors threatening soil as a resource?
8. What method of soil conservation may be used in coastal and dry regions?
9. Why is the earth called the "water planet"?
10. In what forms is fresh water found on the earth?
11. What is the name given to the process involved in rain formation?

### Short Questions:

1. How is land being degraded? Suggest methods to conserve land resource.
2. What is weathering?
3. How is water an important resource?

4. Write a short note on wildlife.
5. What are the major types of vegetation in the world? Describe vegetation in different rainfall conditions.
6. What is soil and how is soil made fertile?
7. What does the weathering mean and how does the weathering help soil?

### Long Questions:

1. Describe methods of soil conservation.
2. What is the threat to vegetation and wildlife? What is the need to conserve them? How can we do this?
3. What is a land and what is the concept of Land use?
4. Describe Landslide and Mitigation mechanism in brief

### Answer Key:

### MCQ:

1. (d) New Zealand
2. (a) 30%
3. (b) Land use
4. (c) landslides
5. (a) Time
6. (a) Group of plants in areas having similar climatic condition.
7. (a) Wind movement to protect soil cover
8. (c) Assam
9. (c) Dispose poly packs after shopping
- 10.(b) Soil texture
- 11.(a) Protected area linked through global network
- 12.(a) Community Property Resources
- 13.(b) Amreli
- 14.(a) Weathering
- 15.(a) Use of land for many purposes

### Very Short Answer:

1. The reasons behind uneven population distribution are mainly the varied conditions of land and climate.
2. Three common land use forms are:

(i) As cropland (ii) Pasture (iii) Forests.

3. Human factors affecting land use pattern are population and technology.

4. The thin layer of grainy substance covering the surface of the earth is called soil.

5. The right mix of minerals and organic matter is needed to make soil fertile.

6. The rock from which soil is derived is called parent rock.

7. Two factors that threaten soil as a resource are soil erosion and its depletion.

8. Shelter belts are used to protect the soil in coastal and dry regions

9. The earth's surface has about three- fourths water, so it is called "water planet".

10. Fresh water is found in the forms of groundwater, water in rivers and lakes and as water vapour

11. The process involved in the formation of rain is called "water cycle".

### Short Answer:

**Ans: 1.** The ever-growing population has increased demand for living space, due to which forests are being destroyed, thus causing land degradation. The rate of degradation of land resources can be checked by promoting afforestation, land reclamation, regulated use of chemical pesticide and fertilizers and checking overgrazing

**Ans: 2.** Weathering refers to the breaking up and decay of exposed rocks. This breaking up and decay is caused by temperature fluctuations between too high and too low, frost action, plants, animals and even human activity. Weathering is the major process involved in the formation of soil. It takes millions of years to form soil by this process.

**Ans: 3.** Water is an indispensable resource of life. Firstly, water serves the most basic purpose of drinking, without which life is impossible. It is helpful in cleaning our bodies, clothes and utensils. Farmers depend on water for irrigation. Water is also used in cooking food. Water is a source of electricity as well. Plants require water for their growth. Water is required for various industrial purposes in factories.

**Ans: 4.** The animal kingdom, which consists of animals, birds, aquatic creatures and insects, is called wildlife. These creatures provide us various important products such as milk, meat, hides and wool. Bees give us honey and help in pollination. They play the role of decomposers in the environment. Birds like the vulture are scavengers and they help in cleansing the environment. All forms of wildlife are an integral part of our ecosystem.

**Ans: 5.** The major types of vegetation in the world are grouped as forests, grasslands, scrubs and tundra." In areas of heavy rain, huge trees can be found. Forests are abundant in areas of heavy rainfall. With moisture and rainfall, the density of forests declines. In moderate rainfall areas, grasslands are found. In dry areas we find thorny shrubs and scrubs. Plants here have deep roots and leaves have thorny surface to reduce loss of moisture. The tundra vegetation consists of mosses and lichens.

**Ans: 6.** The thin layer of grainy substance covering the surface of the earth is called soil. It is closely linked to land. Landforms determine the type of soil. Soil is made up of organic matter,

minerals and weathered rocks found on the earth. This happens through the process of weathering. The right mix of minerals and organic matter make the soil fertile.

**Ans: 7.** Weathering is the breaking up and decay of exposed rocks by temperature changes, frost action, plants, animals and human activity and soil is made up of organic matter, minerals and weathered rocks found on the earth. This happens through the process of weathering.

### Long Answer:

**Ans: 1.** Some common methods of soil conservation are mentioned below: Mulching.

Mulching is the process of covering the bare ground between plants with a layer of organic matter like straw. It contributes in retaining soil moisture.

**Terrace Farming.** Terrace farming is the method of farming in which broad flat steps or terraces are made on the steep slopes so that flat surfaces are available to grow crops. They reduce run-off and soil erosion.

**Intercropping:** In intercropping, different crops are grown in alternate rows and are sown at different times to protect the soil from being washed away by rain.

**Contour Ploughing:** Ploughing parallel to the contours of a hill slope to form a natural barrier for water to flow down a slope is called contour ploughing.

**Shelter Belts:** Rows of trees that are planted in certain areas to check wind movement are called shelter belts. Contour Barriers. Stones, grass and soil are used to build barriers along contours. Trenches are made in front of the barriers to collect water.

**Rock Dams:** This prevents gullies and further soil loss since rocks are piled up to slow down the flow of water.

**Ans: 2.** Forests and wildlife are an important resource. Climate change and human interference in the animal kingdom can cause loss of natural habitat for plants and animals. Certain species have become endangered, and many have become extinct now. Poaching incidents contribute to their extinction. Plants and animals are an important part of the ecosystem. Plants provide food, oxygen and shelter to humans and animals.

Animals provide us important products such as milk, meat, honey, etc. There exists a balance in the environment if we do not disturb the natural number of species living on the earth. A single extinction can affect the ecosystem badly. So animals and plants obviously need to be conserved. The government has introduced national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and biosphere reserves for this purpose. Poaching should be severely dealt with. Indiscriminate killings need to be discouraged. Social awareness must be created about importance of trees, social forestry. Students should be involved in vanmahotsavas at regional and community levels.

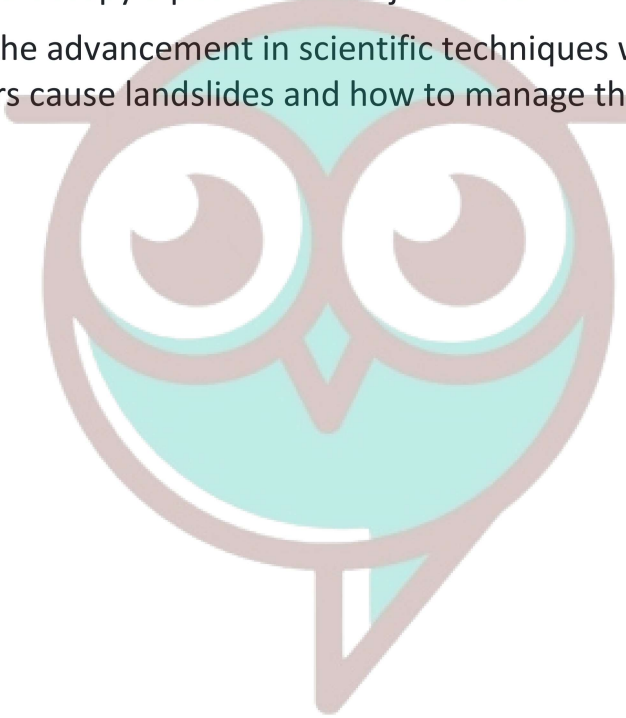
**Ans: 3.** Land is among the most important natural resources. It covers only about thirty per cent of the total area of the earth's surface and all parts of this small percentage are not habitable. Land is used for different purposes such as agriculture, forestry, mining, building houses, roads and setting up of industries. This is commonly termed as Land use. The

use of land is determined by the physical factors such as topography, soil, climate, minerals and availability of water. Human factors such as population and technology are also important determinants of land use pattern.

**Ans: 4.** Landslides are simply defined as the mass movement of rock debris or earth down a slope. They often take place in conjunction with earthquakes, floods and volcanoes. A prolonged spell of rainfall can cause heavy landslide that can block the flow of river for quite some time.

The formation of river blocks can cause havoc to the settlements downstream on its bursting. In the hilly terrain landslides have been a major and widely spread natural disaster that often strike life and property and occupy a position of major concern.

Mitigation mechanism is the advancement in scientific techniques which has empowered us to understand what factors cause landslides and how to manage them.



*Swotters*