

CLASS 9  
SUBJECT – ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE  
CHAPTER – UNDERSTANDING OUR ENVIRONMENT

ANSWERKEY

Answer the following questions in brief.

1. State two goals of environmental science.

Ans. Two goals of environmental science are :

- Learn how the natural world works.
- Understand how we human beings interact with the environment.
- Determine how we humans affect and change the environment.

[any two]

2. Why environmental science is an interdisciplinary subject?

Ans. Environmental science is an interdisciplinary subject as it includes information and Ideas from diverse disciplines such as biology, chemistry, geology, geography, political Science, economics, philosophy and ethics.

3. Mention two environmental problems caused by developed countries.

Ans. Two environmental problem caused by developed countries are:

- Green house effect.
- Ozone depletion.
- Acid rain.
- Resource depletion.

[any two]

4. What are the two ways by which the developed and the developing countries can avert environmental damage?

Ans. Two ways by which the developed and developing countries can avert environmental damage are – using ecofriendly technology and using alternative sources of energy.

5. Define sustainable society.

Ans. A sustainable society is one that has learned to live within the boundaries established by ecological limits. It can be maintained as a collective and ongoing entity by the people. In a sustainable society environmental protection and well being of human race go hand in hand.

Answer the following question in detail.

1. List the dimensions of social sustainability as enumerated by Nobel laureate Amartya Sen.

Ans. The dimensions of social sustainability as enumerated by Nobel laureate Amartya Sen are as follows:

- Equity: where a community has equal opportunity.
- Diversity: where the community promotes and encourages diversity.
- Social Cohesions: where the structure of the community promotes connectedness within and outside the community at the formal, informal and institutional level.
- Quality of Life: where the community ensures good quality of life for all members at the individual, group and community level.
- Democracy and Governance: the community provides democratic processes and open accountable governance structures.
- Maturity: where the individual accept the responsibility of growth and improvement through social attributes.

2. Discuss the major environmental problems.

Ans. The major environmental problems are:

- Pollution: Man has created a lot of bio-products from industries, vehicle exhaust and other domestic activities which are responsible for pollution of air, water and land. Deforestation has led to climatic changes. Pollution has resulted in ozone depletion.
- Resource Depletion: As population is rising the need for resources are increasing resulting in the tremendous stress on the earth's resources where both the renewable and non renewable resource are under threat.
- Extinction of Species: According to an estimation by 2050 due to over fishing by humans many species can lead to extinction. Harvard biologist E.O. Wilson estimates that 30,000 species per year or three species per hour are being driven to extinction. Ocean acidification is the result of excessive production of carbondioxide.

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