

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES | WORKSHEET**Class 12 - Political Science**

1. The Club of Rome, a global think tank, published a book in 1972 entitled _____. [1]
a) Global Poverty and its Threats b) Impact of Climate Change
c) Our Common Future d) Limits to Growth
2. The Earth Summit was held at: [1]
a) New Delhi b) Rio de Janeiro
c) New York d) London
3. Which among the following is not a res communis humanitatis or global commons? [1]
a) Amazon forest b) Outer Space
c) Antarctica d) Earth's Atmosphere
4. In India, the description Indigenous People is usually applied to the _____. [1]
a) Minorities b) Other Backward Class
c) Scheduled Castes d) Scheduled Tribes
5. The Indigenous people of India also known as Tribals constitute of _____. [1]
a) 24 percent b) 12 percent
c) 8 percent d) 22 percent
6. The World Council of Indigenous Peoples was formed in: [1]
a) 1975 b) 1990
c) 2007 d) 1950
7. Which of the following outlines the initiatives to improve energy efficiency? [1]
a) The Energy Conservation Act of 2001 b) The Electricity Act of 2003
c) Pollution Control Act d) National Fuel Policy
8. Which among the following Treaty was first signed for the protection of global commons? [1]
a) Montreal Protocol b) The Antarctic Treaty
c) Agenda 21 d) Antarctic Environmental Protocols
9. Which of the following is not India's stand on Environmental Issues? [1]
a) India negotiating position depends on b) India does not believe in the principle of
UNFCCC Common but Differentiated Responsibility

- c) India signed and ratified the 1997 Kyoto Protocol in 2002
- d) India is of the views that the SAARC countries should adopt a common position
10. Which among the following are the first Indigenous NGOs to receive consultative status in the UN? [1]
- a) Livelihoods Forum of Indigenous Peoples b) The World Council of Indigenous Peoples
- c) Sustainable Forum of Indigenous Peoples d) The World Social Forum of Indigenous peoples
11. Which of the following country has fought a war over Freshwater? [1]
- a) Israel and Syria b) India and Pakistan
- c) The Soviet Union and China d) USA and Cuba
12. Which one of the following is not a reason for environmental movement across the Globe? [1]
- a) Coal Mining b) Scarcity of water resources
- c) Mega Dams Projects d) Forest clearing at an alarming rate
13. In which of the following summit the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities was accepted? [1]
- a) The Kyoto Protocol b) Paris Conference
- c) The Geneva convention d) The Earth Summit
14. Earth Summit was attended by: [1]
- a) 59 states b) 191 states
- c) 170 states d) 184 states
15. **Which among the following is/are true about the global commons?** [1]
- A. The Earth's atmosphere, Antarctica, ocean floor and outer space are considered as part of the global commons.
- B. The global commons are outside sovereign jurisdiction.
- C. The question of managing the global commons has reflected the North-South divide.
- a) C only b) B and C
- c) A only d) A and C
16. Study the following pictures carefully and answer all the questions given below in these pictures: [5]



Questions :

- i. In which year and where the Earth Summit was held?
- ii. What is being shown in above pictures? What is importance of forests for us?
- iii. Discuss the environmental concerns in Global politics.

17. Study the picture given below and answer the questions that follow:

[5]



Questions

- i. What does the picture represent?
- ii. Why do you think the fingers are designed like chimneys and the world made into a lighter?
- iii. What message does this picture convey?

18. Give some environmental concerns of global politics.

[2]

19. What is meant by 'common property'?

[2]

20. What is Resource Geopolitics?

[2]

21. What is meant by environment? Suggest any two steps for the environmental improvement.

[2]

22. Mention any two outcomes of Rio Summit.

[2]

23. Is there any difference between the perspective adopted by the rich and the poor nations to protect the Earth? Explain.

[2]

24. 'Global commons have not only common, but differentiated responsibilities'? Do you agree with this view? Why?

[4]

25. Define indigenous population. Highlight problems of such people.

[4]

26. Write a short note on the indigenous people in India.

[4]

27. What is meant by environment? Highlight the difference between the 'Global North' and 'Global South'.

[4]

28. Describe the issues relating to environmental degradation.

[4]

29. Explain any five environmental concerns in global politics.

[6]

30. Explain the concept of **common but differentiated responsibilities**. How and where was it emphasised upon? [6]
31. Explain the meaning of **global commons**. How are environmental concerns becoming important in global politics? [6]

Solution

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1. **(d) Limits to Growth**
Explanation: The Club of Rome, a global think tank, published a book in 1972 entitled Limits to Growth, dramatizing the potential depletion of the earth's resources against the backdrop of a rapidly growing world population.
2. **(b) Rio de Janeiro**
Explanation: The growing focus on environmental issues within the arena of global politics was firmly consolidated at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in **Rio de Janeiro**, Brazil, in June 1992. This was also called the **Earth Summit** and was attended by 170 states, thousands of NGOs, and many multinational corporations.
3. **(a) Amazon forest**
Explanation: The areas or regions of the world which are located outside the sovereign jurisdiction of any one state, and therefore require common governance by the international community. These are known as res communis humanitatis or global commons. They include the earth's atmosphere, Antarctica, the ocean floor, and outer space.
4. **(d) Scheduled Tribes**
Explanation: As per the United Nations, indigenous population comprises the descendants of peoples who inhabited the present territory of a country at the time when persons of a different culture arrived there from other parts of the world. In India, indigenous people apply to the scheduled tribes who constitute nearly 8 per cent of the population of the country.
5. **(c) 8 percent**
Explanation: In India, indigenous people apply to the scheduled tribes who constitute nearly 8 percent of the population of the country.
6. **(a) 1975**
Explanation: The World Council of Indigenous Peoples was formed in **1975**. The Council became subsequently the first of 11 indigenous NGOs to receive consultative status in the UN.
7. **(a) The Energy Conservation Act of 2001**
Explanation: The Indian government is already participating in global efforts through a number of programmes. For example, the Energy Conservation Act, passed in 2001, outlines initiatives to improve energy efficiency.
8. **(b) The Antarctic Treaty**
Explanation: There have been many path-breaking agreements such as the 1959 Antarctic Treaty, the 1987 Montreal Protocol, and the 1991 Antarctic Environmental Protocol.
9. **(b) India does not believe in the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibility**
Explanation: Following the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. At the G-8 meeting in June 2005, India pointed out that the per capita emission rates of the developing countries are a tiny fraction of those in the developed world. India is of the view that the major responsibility of curbing the greenhouse emission rests with the developed countries, which have accumulated emissions over a long period of time.
10. **(b) The World Council of Indigenous Peoples**
Explanation: The World Council of indigenous people was formed in 1975. The council became the first of 11 indigenous NGOs to receive consultative status in the UN.
11. **(a) Israel and Syria**
Explanation: States have used force to protect or seize freshwater resources. Examples of violence include those between Israel, Syria, and Jordan in the 1950s and 1960s over attempts by each side to divert water from the Jordan and Yarmuk Rivers, and more recent threats between Turkey, Syria, and Iraq over the construction of dams on the Euphrates River.
12. **(b) Scarcity of water resources**
Explanation: Environmental movements are amongst the most powerful social movements across the globe today. However the scarcity of problems is a major concern for the various parts of the world but most of the environmental movements are against the mega-dams, coal mining, etc rather than the shortest of water.
13. **(d) The Earth Summit**
Explanation: The Rio Declaration at the Earth Summit in 1992 adopted the principle of common but differentiated

responsibilities referring special needs of developing countries in the fields as development, application and interpretation of rules of international environmental law to protect environment by both developing nations in a responsible manner.

14. (c) 170 states

Explanation: The **Earth Summit** or United Nations Conference on Environment and Development was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992. The summit was attended by **170 states**, thousands of NGOs, and many multinational corporations.

15. (c) A only

Explanation: In the world, there are some areas which are located outside the sovereign jurisdiction of any one state and hence require common governance by the international community. This is known as Global Commons. They include Earth's atmosphere, Antarctica, the ocean floor, and outer space.

16. i. The Earth Summit on environment issues was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (South America), in June 1992.

ii. Here is a dense rain forest above. Just below, it is shown that these forests are being felled relentlessly. Another is the mangrove forest. Forests stabilise the climate, moderate water supplies and harbour the biodiversity on land.

iii. a. Earth's atmosphere, ocean floors, outer space and Antarctic region are Global Commons. Any country in the world has no claim or coverage on these visible and invisible entities.

b. As the regions described in (a) above are global commons, only world politics can get enforced rules and regulations for their conservation. Any two countries may fall in controversy or disputes but the rules passed by convention/summit will prevail.

17. i. Industrial Pollution commenting on 'Global warming' is represented by the picture.

ii. The fingers are designed like chimneys as it denotes pollution coming out of chimneys from industries and the world made into a lighter representing burning and depleting of natural resources.

iii. The given picture draws the attention of the world towards excessive industrial pollution, if it continues on, flora and fauna will be depleted which will create an imbalance to the ecosystem.

18. Some of the environmental concerns of global politics are given below:

1. Ozone layer depletion is an alarm in concern for the ecosystem. The ozone poses a real danger to ecosystems and human health.

2. Loss of fertility of agricultural land due to extreme use of fertilizers and overgrazed grasslands.

3. Natural forests are being cut down and people are being displaced. There is a loss of biodiversity due to the destruction of habitat in areas which are rich in species.

19. 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.

20. Resource Geopolitics is about who gets what, when, where, and how. It is concerned with the allocation of distribution of natural resources among the nation states of the global arena. They have been the focus of inter- state rivalry and western geopolitical thinking about resources have been dominated by the relationship of trade, war and power, at the core of which are overseas resources and maritime navigation.

21. Environment refers to the surroundings of a region which can be improved by taking the following steps:

1. Eco-friendly industries should be set up as well as industries adherent should be disposed of with scientific methods and by treating wastewater through primary, secondary and tertiary treatment. Industries should be established at far away places from populous/residential areas.

2. By planting green belts in and around industries for promoting ecological balance and holding afforestation drives. More focus should be on afforestation i.e. planting more trees to maintain ecological balance, prevent soil erosion and enhance water cycle also.

22. The two outcomes of Rio Summit were as follows:

i. It provided a consensus on combining economic growth with ecological responsibility for sustainable development.

ii. It produced conventions dealing with climatic change, biodiversity, forestry and recommended a list of development practices called ' Agenda 21 '.

23. 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.

24. Yes, I agree with this statement. There is a difference in approach by both North and South regarding ecological conservation. Following are the reasons :

- i. The developed countries of global North want everyone to be equally responsible for ecological conservation.
- ii. Developing countries of global South state that maximum amount of degradation is because of the industrial development done by global North.
- iii. The developing countries feel that much of the ecological degradation in the world is the product of industrial development undertaken by the developed countries. If they have caused more degradation, they must also take more responsibility for undoing the damage now
- iv. Moreover, developing countries are in process of industrialization and they must not be subjected to the same restrictions. They must be taken into account in the development application and interpretation of rules of international environmental law. This argument was accepted in the Rio Declaration at the Earth Summit in 1992 and is called ‘common but differentiated responsibilities’.
- v. The 1992 United National Framework Conversation on Climate Change (UNFCCC) also provides that the parties should act to protect the climate system “on the basis of equality and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities.”
- vi. The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement setting targets for industrialised countries to cut their greenhouse gas emissions.

The concept of common and differentiated responsibilities was emphasised upon in 'Rio Declaration at the Earth Summit' in the year 1992.

25. The UN defines indigenous population as comprising the descendants of people 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. The following problems are faced by such people:

- i. They lost their lands which belonged to them form long time. The indigenous people used the phrase "Since times immemorial" refers to their continued occupancy of the lands from which they originate.
- ii. The loss of land, which also means the loss of an economic resource base, is the most obvious threat to the survival of indigenous people.
- iii. Issues related to the rights of the indigenous communities have also been neglected in domestic and international politics for long.
- iv. The rights of the indigenous people have been neglected in domestic and international politics.

26. 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 ethnic origin arrived there from other parts of the world and overcame them. In India ‘indigenous people’ are referred to as ‘Scheduled Tribes- who - constitute nearly eight percent of the population. Most indigenous populations in India depend for their subsistence primarily on the cultivation of land. They enjoy constitutional protection in political representation. Some seats in the legislatures have been reserved for them. In spite of political representation, they are the largest group among the people displaced by various developmental projects since independence.

27. Environment :It signifies the relationship between nature and scale of development. It is based on the concept of ecological balance which states that proper care should be taken during the process of industrialisation, so that minimum harm is caused to nature.

Differences between 'Global North' and 'Global South' are :

Global North	Global South
Global North defined as the richer, more developed region of the globe.	Global South defined as the poorer, less developed region or developing region.
The developed countries want to discuss the environmental issue as it stands now and want everyone to be equally responsible for ecological conservation.	The developing countries feel that much of the ecological degradation in the world is the product of industrial development undertaken by developed countries. If they have caused more degradation, they must also take more responsibility.
95% of the North has enough food and shelter.	It lacks appropriate technology.
Global emissions of greenhouse gases has originated in developed countries.	Developing countries are still relatively low in per capita emissions of greenhouse gas.

28. The environmental degradation caused by human activities has become pervasive and has reached a dangerous level. Following are the issues relating to environmental degradation :

- i. The land is not expanding further, grasslands and fisheries have been over-exploited. Natural resources are being depleted i.e. cultivable area has not been sustained anymore, agricultural land lost fertility and grass lands have been overgrazed.
- ii. Waterbodies have suffered a depletion and pollution both. There is hardly any food production on the polluted and depleted water bodies.
- iii. Natural forests which help stabilise the climate, moderate water supplies and harbour a majority of the planet's biodiversity on land are being cut down and people are being displaced.
- iv. A steady decline in the total amount of ozone in the Earth's stratosphere poses a real danger to human health.
- v. Coastal waters are becoming increasingly polluted largely due to land based activities. Due to land based activities, coastal pollution is also increasing which affects quality of marine environment and fisheries.

29. 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.
 - 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.
30. Common but differentiated responsibilities mean that the states shall cooperate in the spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the earth's ecosystem. As the states have common but differentiated responsibilities over the various contribution of global environmental degradation. The developed countries acknowledge that the responsibility that they bear in the international pursuit of sustainable development in view of the pressures their societies place on the global environment and of the technological and financial resources they command.

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 1992 United Nation's Framework Convention on Climatic Change (UNFCCC) also emphasised that the parties should act to protect the climate system on the basis of common but differentiated responsibilities.
- iii. An international agreement known by its Protocol set targets for industrialised countries to cut their greenhouse gas emissions which support for global warming.

The 1992 UN negotiations were organized around the four key themes of climate change, deforestation, desertification, and biodiversity degradation—environmental problems whose global repercussions brought home the need for a collective response, which needed, in turn, to be grounded in a common responsibility. In legal terms, CBDR describes the shared obligation of two or more states toward the protection of a particular environmental resource.

31. Global Commons are those resources which are not owned by anyone but rather shared by a community. This could be a 'common room', a 'community centre', a park or a river. Similarly, there are some areas or regions of the world which are located outside the sovereign jurisdiction of any one state, and therefore require common governance by the international community. These are known as 'global commons'. They include the earth's atmosphere, Antarctica, the ocean floor and outer space.

Although environmental concerns have a long history, awareness of the environmental consequences of economic growth acquired an increasingly political character from the 1960s onwards. The Club of Rome, a global think-tank, published a book in 1972 entitled Limits to Growth, dramatising the potential depletion of the earth's resources against the backdrop of the rapidly growing world population. International agencies began holding international conferences and promoting detailed studies to get a more coordinated and effective response to environmental problems. Since then, the environment has emerged as a significant issue of global politics.

The growing focus on environmental issues within the arena of global politics was firmly consolidated at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992. This was also called the Earth Summit. The Summit was attended by 170 states, thousands of NGOs and many multinational corporations. The Summit produced conventions dealing with climate change, biodiversity, forestry and recommended a list of development practices called 'Agenda 21'. But it left unresolved considerable differences and difficulties. There was a consensus on combining economic growth with ecological responsibility. This approach to development is commonly known as 'sustainable development'. Beside Agenda 21, there is the Kyoto Protocol, which set targets for industrialised countries to cut their greenhouse emissions which support for Global Warming. Today, the Internet, World Wide Web and resulting cyberspace are often referred to as global commons. Other usages sometimes include references to open access information of all kinds, including arts and culture, language

and science, though these are more formally referred to as the common heritage of mankind. Access to those digital commons and the actual freedom of expression allowed does vary widely by geographical area. Management of the electronic global commons presents as many issues as do other commons.