



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH (2021-22)

Question Bank

THE AILING PLANET: The Green Movement's Role - by Nani Palkhivala

Class: XI

Sub: ENGLISH

I. Multiple Choice Questions:

Choose the appropriate option.

1. What was the issue raised by the author in the chapter 'The Ailing Planet'?

- A. Global Warming
- B. Save Water
- C. Save Electricity

D. Deteriorating health of the earth

2. What are the four principal biological systems that form the foundation of the global economic system?

- A. water, air, sand, forests
- B. ocean, forests, deserts, land
- C. fisheries, grasslands, forests, and croplands**
- D. fisheries, grasslands, oceans, land

3. What will the grasslands turn into if systems become unsustainable?

- A. turn into a barren wasteland**
- B. turn into mighty deserts
- C. soil quality will deteriorate
- D. Nothing as such

4. What is one of the reasons for the exploitation of the environment?

- A. increasing population**
- B. global warming
- C. animal extinctions
- D. water pollution

5. Who said, "No generation has a freehold on this earth. All we have is a life tenancy — with a full repairing lease"?

- A. Edgar S. Woolard
- B. UN World Commission
- C. Donald Trump
- D. Margaret Thatcher**

II. Short Answer Type Questions:

Answer the following questions in not more than 30-40 words.

1. **What is the significance of Green Movement in the modern world?**

The Green Movement that was found in New Zealand in the year 1972 brought a great awareness to the humanity. It taught us that we are just partners on the earth having equal rights to inhabit this planet as any other living organism has. Having learnt this, human beings worldwide stopped large amount of destruction that it used cause upon the earth. People realized that the earth's existence was threatened and began to do whatever was possible by each individual and each nation.

2. **"What goes under the pot now costs more than what goes inside it." Explain.** With a growing population and the pace of the global developments taking wings, the cost of food touched a new height, all time high. Amazingly, the cost of cooking-gas overtook that of food grains, fish, meat and vegetables, thus the fuel to cook – gas, firewood and electricity – now costs more than the raw-food.

3. **Why is it said that forests precede mankind?**

No animal on the planet earth ever caused damage to it but humans have been causing serious destruction upon the earth ever since he had evolved. By cutting down trees for his survival and development humans have established their monopoly over the other species. Thus, with the coming of humans, the existence of forest was threatened.

4. **What did Lester Brown mean when he said “We have not inherited this earth from our forefathers, we have borrowed it from our children”?**

Lester Brown believes that the present population of the earth has no right to think that the earth is its property. Each one has to believe that he is having full responsibility to keep the earth protected from all kinds of misuse. He has to feel that the earth is place that he has to return to the generations to come. Brown further furnishes that human beings have no right to misuse the earth because we are accountable to the new generations after us.

5. **Why tropical forest is called the powerhouse of evolution?**

It is in the heart of the tropical forests where newer plants and animals evolve to more adaptable forms.

6. **What does more children mean to the poor section of people of India?**

Poverty is directly caused by illiteracy and lack of education. The illiterate and uninformed poor people of India believe that more children is more income. In fact, having more children means more responsibility and more poverty and an unhealthy family and individual.

7. **What does Mr. Edgar S Woolard mean by assuming the post of his company's Chief Environment Officer?**

Mr. Edgar S Woolard, chairman of DuPont, an international manufacturer, by co-assuming the post of the company’s Chief Environmental Officer(CEO), stands a model for the owners and chairpersons of all the industries worldwide. He implies that the chief motive of an industry is to preserve the stability and life of the earth and profit comes next.

8. **Why is the earth said to be an ailing planet?**

Due to the insensitive exploitation by humans for his survival and development, the earth has lost almost all its vital resources. With drying rivers, depleted and polluted environment and deteriorated forests and greenery, the earth is now breathing hard for its survival and thus it is an ailing planet.

9. **What are our ethical obligations to the ailing planet? (V.B.Q.)**

Human beings have the greatest obligation to the earth to safeguard this planet from all advancing deterioration and keeping it safe so that it can be handed over to the coming generations to inhabit here peacefully and in the midst of abundance.

10. **Margaret Thatcher says, "No generation has a freehold on this earth. All we have is a life tenancy - with full repairing lease." How is this statement significant today?**

Everyone says, "It is my land" and "that is your land." People fight for other territories and encroach the neighbor's land. It is here that British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher's observation gains importance. We are not supposed to occupy the earth considering that the planet belongs to us and that we can exploit the planet any way we like. We, on the contrary, have to extract the resources so carefully that the generation that comes after us will have a better land and sea, a denser forest, cleaner water and clearer sky.

III. Long Answer type questions:

Answer the following questions in not more than 100-120 words

Q1. How has the growth of world population affected the environment? Support your answer with suitable arguments?

The author Nani Palkhivala enumerates some alarming statistics to suggest how the growth of world population has tremendously affected the environment. The population which took a million years to reach the first billion took just another hundred years to reach the second billion. Another century passed it and reached the alarming figure of 3.7 billion. Presently it is over 6 billion and there is a huge demand on resources, natural or man-made. The resources worldwide are under a lot of stress and pressure. The four principal biological systems i.e. fisheries, forests, grasslands and croplands which form the foundation of the global economic system and provide raw materials to the industry are facing a lot of stress. The human demands on these systems are increasing at a rapid speed. Hence, sustainability and productivity are both hampered. When this happens, fisheries collapse, forests disappear, grasslands become wastelands and croplands deteriorate. The need of the hour is to become sensitive towards the needs of the environment to get affected; we will leave behind nothing but an ailing planet for our future generations.

Q2. We have not inherited this earth from our forefathers; we have borrowed it from our children. Discuss.

Earth's resources are limited and will not last forever. In the twentieth century, there has been a revolutionary change in human perception. We cannot take the planet for granted. We are mere

custodians. We have to take a holistic view of the very basis of our existence. The earth is a living organism of which we are parts. It has its own metabolic needs to stay alive and must be respected and preserved for the future generation. What is required is sustainable development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the destiny of future generation. There are four biological systems, namely fisheries, forests, grasslands and croplands. They form the foundation of the global economic system. They supply us food and raw materials for industry. In larger areas of the world, these systems are reaching unsustainable levels. Their productivity is being damaged. The growth of world population is another factor distorting the future of our children. Development is not possible if population increases. In this era of responsibility towards our future generation, population must be controlled. Industries must become environmental friendly. Now many industrialists, politicians and writers have realized their responsibility in preserving the non-renewable natural resources for the future generation.

3. Discuss. Laws are never respected nor enforced in India.

India, the biggest democracy in the world is condemned for its easy attitude towards laws. Laws are constituted but never respected nor enforced in the country for instance, the Indian Constitution mentions that casteism, untouchability and bonded labour shall be abolished; however, these evils flourish even today. The author points out that Article 48A of the Indian Constitution, propounds that “the State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country”. However, little is done in favour of this, forests are being cut and illegal shooting of wildlife goes on. We see a near “catastrophic depletion” of forests over the last four decades. Forests are disappearing over the decades at the rate of 3.7 million acres a year. Areas that are officially designated as forest land, in reality, are treeless. The actual loss of forests is eight times the rate pointed by the government statistics. Hence, it can be concluded that laws are neither respected nor enforced in India.

4. Why does the author aver that the growth of world population is one of the strongest factors distorting the future of human society?

Overpopulation is one of the strongest factors responsible for a nation's poverty and underemployment. It disturbs the earth's principal biological systems leading to degradation of environment. The growth of world population puts a severe strain on the earth's principal biological systems. Due to excessive human claims these reach an unsustainable level where their productivity is damaged. Development is not possible if world population continues to grow so rapidly. Increasing population brings hunger, poverty and unemployment. The author argues that development is the best contraceptive, which includes spread of education, improvement of health and rise in income. Spread of education leads to awareness among people, which in turn results in a fall in the 'fertility' rate.