

## BEN-A103

### ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

MM: 100  
Time: 3 hrs  
L T P  
2 0 0

Sessional: 30  
ESE: 70  
Credits 0

**NOTE:** The question paper shall consist of three sections (Sec.-A, Sec.-B and Sec.-C). Sec.-A shall contain 10 objective type questions of one mark each and student shall be required to attempt all questions. Sec.-B shall contain 10 short answer type questions of four marks each and student shall be required to attempt any five questions. Sec.-C shall contain 8 descriptive type questions of ten marks each and student shall be required to attempt any four questions. Questions shall be uniformly distributed from the entire syllabus. The previous year paper/model paper can be used as a guideline and the following syllabus should be strictly followed while setting the question paper.

#### UNIT I

**The Multidisciplinary Nature of Environmental Studies & Ecosystems:** (a) Definition, scope and importance of ecology and environment (b) The ecological components: (i) Abiotic components: soil, water, light, humidity and temperature (ii) Biotic components & their relationships- symbiosis, commensalisms, parasitism, predation and antibiosis (c) Concept of an ecosystem (d) Structure and function of an ecosystem (e) Producers, consumers and decomposers (f) Energy flow in the ecosystem (g) Ecological succession (h) Food chains, food webs and ecological pyramids (i) Introduction, types, characteristic features, structure and function of the following ecosystems: (i) Forest ecosystem (ii) Grassland ecosystem (iii) Desert ecosystem (iv) Aquatic ecosystems (pond, river, ocean estuaries, streams, lakes) (j) Need for public awareness

#### UNIT II

**Natural Resources:** (a) Renewable and Non-Renewable resources (b) Natural resources and associated problems: (i) Forest resources: use and over-exploitation, deforestation case, timber extraction, mining, dams and their effects on forest and tribal people (ii) Water resources: use and over-utilization of surface and ground floods, drought, conflicts over water, dams benefits and problem (iii) Mineral resources: use and exploitation, environmental effects of extracting and using mineral resources, case studies (iv) Food resources : world food problems, changes caused by agriculture overgrazing, effects of modern agriculture, fertilizer-pesticide problems, water logging, salinity, case studies (v) Energy resources: growing energy needs, renewable and non-renewable energy sources, use of alternate energy sources, case studies (vi) Land resources: land as a resource, land degradation, man induced landslides, soil erosion and desertification (vii) Biodiversity & its conservation: definition- genetic, species and ecosystem diversity, values of biodiversity- consumptive use, productive use, social, ethical, aesthetic and option values (viii) Biodiversity at global, national and local levels, India as a mega-diversity nation, hot-spots of biodiversity, threats to biodiversity- habitat loss, poaching of wildlife, man-wildlife conflicts; endangered and endemic species of India, conservation of biodiversity: *in-situ* & *ex-situ* conservation of biodiversity (ix) Bio-geographical classification of India (x) Role of an individual in conservation of natural resources (xi) Equitable use of resources for sustainable lifestyles.

#### UNIT III

**Environmental Pollution:** (a) Definition, causes, effects and control measures of: air pollution, water pollution, soil pollution, noise pollution, thermal pollution and nuclear hazards (b) Solid waste management- causes, effects and control measures of urban and industrial wastes (c) Role of an individual in prevention of pollution (d) Pollution case studies (e) Disaster management: floods, earthquake, cyclone & landslides

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#### UNIT IV

**Social Issues and the Environment:** (a) From unsustainable to sustainable development (b) Urban problems related to energy (c) Water conservation, rain water conservation, rain water harvesting, management (d) Resettlement & rehabilitation of people- its problems and concerns, case studies (e) Environmental ethics- issues and possible solutions (f) Wasteland reclamation (g) Consumerism and waste products (h) Population growth, variation among nations, family welfare program (i) Environment and human health, human rights, value education (j) HIV/AIDS (k) Role of information technology (IT) in environment and human health (l) Case studies.

#### UNIT V

**Environmental policies and laws:** Salient features of following acts (a) Environment Protection Act 1986 (b) Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981 (c) Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 (d) Wildlife Protection Act 1972 (e) Forest Conservation Act 1980 (f) Issues involved in enforcement of environmental legislation (g) Public awareness

#### Suggested Books

1. Asthana, D. K. (2006). Text Book of Environmental Studies. S. Chand Publishing.
2. Basu, M., Xavier, S. (2016). Fundamentals of Environmental Studies, Cambridge University Press, India
3. Basu, R. N., (Ed.) (2000). Environment. University of Calcutta, Kolkata
4. Bharucha, E. (2013). Textbook of Environmental Studies for Undergraduate Courses. Universities Press.
5. De, A.K., (2006). Environmental Chemistry, 6th Edition, New Age International, New Delhi.

