

17BCAHRET25: Human Rights and Environmental Studies

Teaching Hours: 4 Hrs/week

Marks: Main Exam: 80

IA: 20

Section A: Environmental Studies

Nature of environmental studies: 5 Hours

Definitions, scope and importance, Multidisciplinary nature of environmental studies need for public awareness. Natural resources and associated problems: (a) Forest resources : Use and over exploitation, deforestation timber extraction , mining , dams and their effects on forests and tribal people (b) Water resources : Use and over utilization of surface and ground water , floods, drought, conflicts, over water, dams-benefits and problems (c) Mineral resources use exploitation, environmental effects of extracting and using mineral resources (d) Food resources: World food problems , changes caused by agriculture effects of modern agriculture, fertilizer problems (e) Energy resources : growing energy needs renewable and non-renewable energy sources , use of alternate energy sources (f) land resources: land as resources, and land degradation, man induced landslides, soil erosion and desertification. Role of an individual in conservation of natural resources. Equitable use of resources for sustainable lifestyles.

Ecosystem: 3 Hours

Concepts of an ecosystem, structure and function of an ecosystem, Production, consumers and decomposers, Energy flow in the ecosystem , Ecological succession , Food chains, food webs and ecological pyramids, Introduction , types Characteristics features , structures and functions of the following ecosystem (a) Forest ecosystem (b) Grassland ecosystem (c) desert ecosystem (d) Aquatic ecosystem (ponds , streams, lakes, rivers, oceans, estuaries).

Biodiversity and its conservation: 5 Hours

Introduction –definition: Generic, species and ecosystem diversity, biogeographical classification of India, Value of biodiversity: consumptive use, productive use, social , ethical, aesthetic and option value , Biodiversity at global , national and local levels, India as a megadiversity nation, Western ghat as a bio-diversity, 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 and ex-situ , conservation of biodiversity.

Environmental Pollution: 5 Hours

Definition causes, effects and control measures of (a) Air pollution (b) Water pollution (c) Soil pollution (d) Marine pollution (e) Noise pollution (f) Thermal pollution (g) Nuclear hazards, Solid waste management : causes , effects and control measures urban and industrial wastes, Role of an individual in prevention of pollution , Disaster management : Food earthquake, cyclone and landslides, Tsunami.

Social issues and Environment: 3 Hours

From Unsustainable to Sustainable development , urban problems related to energy , Water conservation, rain water harvesting, watershed management, Resettlement and rehabilitation of people : its problems and concerns , Environmental ethics; Issues and possible solutions , climate change, global warming , acid rain, ozone layer depletion, nuclear accidents and holocaust, Wasteland reclamation , consumerism and waste products, Environment protection Act, air (Prevention and control of pollution) act Water (Prevention and control of pollution) Act, Wildlife protection act, Forest conservation Act, Issues involved in enforcement of environmental legislation public awareness.

Human Population and the Environment:

6 Hours

Population growth, variations among nations, Population explosion, family welfare programming, Environment and human health, value Education, women and child welfare, Role of information technology in environmental and human health.

Field work:

3 Hours

Visit to a local area to document environmental assets river /forest/grassland/hill/mountain, Visit to a local polluted site Urban/Rural/Industrial/Agricultural, study of common plants, insects, birds, study of simple ecosystem ponds, river, hill slopes, etc.

References

1. S. Sinha , M. Shukla & R Shukla, Text book of Environmental Studies, AITBSPublishers, Delhi
2. Agarwal K.C., Environmental Biology, Nidhi Publications, 2008, Bikaner.
3. Trivedi R.K. Handbook of Environmental Laws, Acts, Guidelines, Compliances & Standards, 3rd edition, BPB Publications
1. Trivedi R.K. and P.K. Goel, An Introduction to Air Pollution, Techno-Science publications.
4. Down to earth centre for science and Environment, <http://www.cseindia.org/>

Section B: Human Rights

Unit 1

10 Hours

Nature of human rights, origin and development of the concept of Human Rights, Functions of Human rights in modern society, Human rights and democratic governance; limitations of Human rights;

Unit 2

10 Hours

Classification of Human rights, Civil and political Rights-Nature and functions: Social and Economics Rights; Right of vulnerable groups such as women, children minorities, triable and the disabled, Constitutional incorporation of Human rights in India.

Unit 3

10 Hours

Enforcement of human rights-basic principles governing enforcement of human rights at national , regional and International levels , national Human rights , Commission-rganization, functions and powers.

References:

1. H.O. Agarwal, Human Rights, Central Law Publications, Allahabad.
2. Durga Das Basu –Human rights in Constitutional Law, Prentice Hall (Relevant chapters).
3. Henkin Luis, Rights of Man Today, London, Steven 1978.
4. Singh Nagendra, Enforcement of Human rights in Peace and War and the Future of Humanity, Calcutta, Eastern law House 1986.