

CBSE CLASS X
Social Science (087)**ANSWER KEY***From previous CBSE Board Exam questions***Code: TZZP8Z****Questions: 39****Maximum Marks: 68****Generated: 2026-06-15 12:52****SELECTIONS USED**

Source	Previous-year board
Subject	Social Science
Lessons	Resources and Development
Year	2022-2026
Questions selected	39

Composition — Types: 19 MCQ · 10 Very short · 2 source_based · 2 Long · 1 Case-based · 1 Short

Q1. § Notes for the Teacher § Income and Other Criteria**[1]**

Look at the given cartoon carefully and answer the question that follow :

Which of the following concepts is best illustrated in the cartoon ?

- A Inclusive economic growth amongst nations
- B Stagnation of economic development amongst nations
- C Uneven distribution of wealth amongst nations
- D Balanced economic growth amongst nations

Previously asked in: 2026 32/5/1 Q21

♦ **Development** Equitable Distribution of Resources Income as a criterion for development
Per Capita Income as a criterion for comparing countries (World Bank)

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-15 07:00 · grounding rag**Model Answer****Option C: Uneven distribution of wealth amongst nations**

The cartoon depicts disparity between rich and poor nations, which best illustrates the concept of uneven distribution of wealth amongst nations.

Explanation

The cartoon visually shows the gap between wealthy and poor nations. Option A (inclusive growth) and D (balanced growth) are opposites of what is shown. Option B (stagnation) refers to no growth, not disparity. Examiners expect students to read the visual carefully and match it to the correct economic concept. The keyword in the cartoon description is "disparity," which directly points to **uneven distribution**.

Q2. § Introduction

[1]

Match the column - 1 with column - 2 and choose the correct option :

Column - 1 (Resources): (I) Biological, (II) Renewable, (III) Non-renewable

Column - 2 (Example): 1. Coal, 2. Wildlife, 3. Solar Energy

- (a) I-1, II-3, III-2
- (b) I-3, II-2, III-1
- (c) I-2, II-3, III-1
- (d) I-1, II-2, III-3

Previously asked in: 2023 32/4/1 Q6

♦ Resources and Development

Classification of Resources: Biological, Renewable, and Non-renewable

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Model Answer**(c) I-2, II-3, III-1**

Biological resource → Wildlife (2); Renewable resource → Solar Energy (3); Non-renewable resource → Coal (1).

Explanation

- **Biological resources** are obtained from living organisms (biotic), so Wildlife is correct.
- **Renewable resources** can be replenished naturally; Solar Energy is inexhaustible.
- **Non-renewable resources** (like Coal) take millions of years to form and cannot be quickly replenished.
- Option (c) is the only one that correctly pairs all three.

Q3.

[1]

Which of the following is correctly matched ?

- (a) Alluvial Soil — Consist of sand and silt
- (b) Black Soil — Salt content is high
- (c) Arid Soil — Diffusion of iron in crystalline
- (d) Laterite Soil — Made up of Lava flows

Previously asked in: 2023 32/4/1 Q7

♦ Resources and Development

Matching concepts/terms across topics

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Model Answer

(a) Alluvial Soil — Consist of sand and silt is correctly matched. Alluvial soils are made up of sand, silt, and clay deposited by rivers.

Explanation

Options (b), (c), and (d) are incorrect: Black soil has high moisture-retaining capacity (not high salt content); Arid soil has diffusion of iron giving it a red colour; Laterite soil is formed by intensive leaching — it is not made up of lava flows (that describes Regur/Black soil). Option (a) is the only correct match as alluvial soils are indeed composed of sand, silt, and clay.

Q4.

[1]

Which of the following pair is correctly matched ?

- A Alluvial Soil – Gangetic Plain
- B Black Soil – Himalayan Region
- C Arid Soil – Western Ghats
- D Laterite Soil – Desert Area

Previously asked in: 2023 32/1/1 Q7; 2023 32/6/1 Q7 – 2×

♦ Resources and Development

Matching pairs - General concepts across chapters

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Model Answer

Option A — Alluvial Soil is correctly matched with the Gangetic Plain (northern plains). Black soil is found in the Deccan plateau region, not the Himalayan region.

Explanation

The textbook clearly states that the entire northern plains, including the Gangetic Plain, are made of alluvial soil deposited by Himalayan river systems. Black soil is typical of the Deccan trap (Maharashtra, Malwa, etc.), laterite soil is found in Western Ghats and southern states, and arid soils are found in Rajasthan — not the Western Ghats. Always remember the soil–region mapping for MCQs.

Q5.

§ Introduction

§ RESOURCE PLANNING

[1]

Which of the following is an example of a renewable resource ?

- A Natural Gas
- B Crude Oil
- C Coal
- D Ground Water

Previously asked in: 2026 32/5/1 Q33

♦ Resources and Development

Types of Resources: Renewable and Non-Renewable Resources

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Model Answer**D) Ground Water**

Ground water is a renewable resource as it can be replenished through the water cycle (precipitation and seepage), unlike natural gas, crude oil, and coal which are non-renewable.

Explanation

- Resources classified on the basis of exhaustibility are **renewable** (replenished by natural processes) and **non-renewable** (take millions of years to form).
- Natural gas, crude oil, and coal are fossil fuels — non-renewable resources.
- Ground water is renewable because it is recharged through the hydrological cycle.
- Examiners expect you to simply identify the correct option and give a brief justification in a 1-mark MCQ.

Q6. § Introduction

[2]

Explain the adverse effects on the environment due to indiscriminate use of resources.

Previously asked in: 2025 32/1/1 Q22

◆ Resources and Development

Adverse effects of indiscriminate use of resources on the environment

Need for resource conservation and sustainable development

Resource depletion and overexploitation

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Model Answer

Indiscriminate use of resources has led to the following adverse effects on the environment:

1. **Global ecological crises** such as global warming, ozone layer depletion, and environmental pollution.
2. **Land degradation** due to overgrazing, mining, over-irrigation, and deforestation.
3. **Depletion of resources**, endangering the needs of future generations.

Source: Resources and Development, Development of Resources / Land Degradation and Conservation Measures

Explanation

The question is directly answered from the "Development of Resources" section, which lists the problems caused by indiscriminate resource use. For 2 marks, mention **two or three distinct adverse effects** — examiners look for global ecological crises (global warming, ozone depletion, pollution) and land degradation as the key points. Avoid vague answers; use the textbook's exact terminology like "global ecological crises" and "land degradation."

Q7. § Introduction

[2]

'Conservation of energy is itself a production of energy.' Support the statement.

Previously asked in: 2023 32/5/1 Q23(a)

◆ Resources and Development

Conservation of Resources

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Model Answer

Conservation of energy means using resources carefully so that less new energy needs to be generated. When we save electricity by switching off lights, or use fuel-efficient vehicles, we reduce the demand for energy production. This saving is equivalent to producing new energy, since the same work is done with less resource extraction and generation. Thus, conservation effectively acts as a source of energy.

Source: Resources and Development, Conservation of Resources — Chapter 1

Explanation

The examiner expects you to link **saving/conserving** energy directly to **reduced need for production**, making conservation equivalent to production. Key idea: every unit saved = a unit that didn't need to be produced. Avoid vague points about environment; keep the logical link tight. This is a 2-mark inference-based question, so one clear explanation with a supporting example is sufficient.

Q8. § RESOURCE PLANNING

[2]

"Planning is the widely accepted strategy for judicious use of resources." Explain the statement.

Previously asked in: 2025 32/4/1 Q23(A)

◆ Resources and Development

Resource Planning and Judicious Use of Resources

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Model Answer

Planning is essential for the judicious use of resources because India has enormous diversity in resource availability. Some regions are resource-rich (e.g., Jharkhand — minerals; Arunachal Pradesh — water), while others face acute shortages (e.g., Rajasthan lacks water; Ladakh lacks infrastructure). This regional imbalance calls for balanced resource planning at national, state, regional and local levels.

Source: *Resources and Development, Resource Planning in India*

Explanation

The examiner expects two things: (1) state why planning is needed — uneven/diverse distribution of resources across India, and (2) support with examples from the text (Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Ladakh, etc.). Don't write a general definition of planning; focus on the "judicious use" angle tied to regional imbalance. Two well-chosen examples earn full marks.

Q9. § Introduction § RESOURCE PLANNING

[2]

Suggest any two ways for the conservation of resources.

Previously asked in: 2024 32/3/1 Q22(b)

◆ Resources and Development

Conservation of Resources

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Model Answer

Two ways for the conservation of resources:

1. **Sustainable Development** – Resources should be used carefully to meet present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs (as recommended by the Brundtland Commission, 1987).
1. **Judicious/Planned Use** – Irrational consumption and over-utilisation must be avoided through proper resource planning at national, state and local levels to prevent socio-economic and environmental problems.

Source: *Chapter 1 – Resources and Development, Conservation of Resources*

Explanation

The examiner expects two distinct, named methods with a brief explanation of each. The key terms from the textbook are **sustainable development** and **resource planning/judicious use**. You can also mention Gandhiji's idea (avoiding greed-based exploitation) as an alternative second point. Avoid writing vague answers like "don't waste resources" — always link to textbook concepts for full marks.

Q10. § Introduction

[2]

"An equitable distribution of resources has become essential for a sustained quality of human life." Explain the statement.

Previously asked in: 2025 32/4/1 Q23(B)

♦ Resources and Development

Equitable Distribution of Resources

Sustainable Development and Resource Conservation

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Model Answer

Resources are indiscriminately used to satisfy the greed of a few, leading to their accumulation in few hands, dividing society into rich and poor. This causes global ecological crises like global warming and environmental pollution. Therefore, equitable distribution ensures all people have access to resources, maintaining sustained quality of life and global peace.

Source: Resources and Development, Development of Resources

Explanation

The answer must link two ideas: (1) unequal/indiscriminate use of resources causes socio-economic and environmental problems, and (2) equitable distribution is the solution for sustained quality of life and global peace. Both points are directly from the textbook passage. Examiners expect you to mention consequences of unequal distribution (rich-poor divide, ecological crises) and then justify why equitable distribution is necessary.

Q11. § Introduction § DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES § RESOURCE PLANNING

[4]

National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) shows the way

NTPC is a major power providing corporation in India. It has ISO certification for EMS (Environment Management System) 14001. The corporation has a proactive approach for preserving the natural environment and resources like water, oil, gas and fuels in places where it is setting up power plants.

This has been possible through:

- (a) Optimum utilisation of equipment adopting latest techniques and upgrading existing equipment.
- (b) Minimising waste generation by maximising ash utilisation.
- (c) Providing green belts for nurturing ecological balance and addressing the question of special purpose vehicles for afforestation.
- (d) Reducing environmental pollution through ash pond management, ash water recycling system and liquid waste management.
- (e) Ecological monitoring, reviews and online database management for all its power stations.

Read the case given below carefully and answer the questions that follow:

(12.1) Define sustainable development. [1]

(12.2) What is the idea behind ISO certification? [1]

(12.3) Examine the proactive approach of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). [2]

Previously asked in: 2022 32/3/1 Q12

♦ Resources and Development

Conservation and Proactive Approach to Resource Management

Environment Management System (EMS) and ISO Certification

Sustainable Development

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Model Answer

(12.1) Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

(12.2) ISO certification ensures that an organisation follows internationally recognised standards for quality, safety, and environmental management, assuring stakeholders of responsible and systematic practices.

(12.3) NTPC's proactive approach involves:

- Optimum utilisation of equipment using latest techniques.
- Minimising waste by maximising ash utilisation.
- Providing green belts for ecological balance and afforestation.
- Reducing pollution through ash pond management, ash water recycling, and liquid waste management.
- Ecological monitoring and online database management for all power stations.

Thus, NTPC actively preserves natural resources like water, oil, gas, and fuel while setting up power plants.

Source: Business Studies, Chapter – Social Responsibility of Business and Business Ethics

Explanation

- **(12.1)** This is a standard 1-mark definition; write exactly one line. The Brundtland Commission definition is what examiners expect.
- **(12.2)** ISO certification is about adherence to international standards — focus on its purpose, not technical details.

- **(12.3)** For 2 marks, list at least 3–4 points directly from the passage. Do not add information outside the extract. Examiners award marks for points sourced from the case study.

Q12. § Introduction § DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES

[4]

Conservation of Resources

At the international level, the Club of Rome advocated resource conservation for the first time in a more systematic way in 1968. Subsequently, in 1974, Gandhian philosophy was once again presented by Schumacher in his book *Small is Beautiful*. The seminal contribution with respect to resource conservation at the global level was made by the Brundtland Commission Report, 1987. This report introduced the concept of 'Sustainable Development' and advocated it as a means for resource conservation, which was subsequently published in a book entitled *Our Common Future*. Another significant contribution was made at the Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992.

Read the given source and answer the questions that follow :

- (35.1)** Explain the meaning of sustainable development. [1]
(35.2) In which international conference was 'Agenda-21' accepted ? [1]
(35.3) Explain any two outcomes of the Summit. [2]

Previously asked in: 2024 32/5/1 Q35

♦ Resources and Development

Agenda-21 and Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit

Outcomes of the Rio Earth Summit

Sustainable Development

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Model Answer

(35.1) Sustainable Development means development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It was introduced by the Brundtland Commission Report, 1987.

(35.2) 'Agenda-21' was accepted at the **Earth Summit held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992**.

(35.3) Two outcomes of the Earth Summit (1992):

- It aimed at achieving global sustainable development by addressing environmental damage and poverty.
- It created **Agenda-21** to combat environmental degradation through international cooperation on issues like climate change, biodiversity, and resource conservation.

Source: Chapter 1 – Resources and Development, Resource Conservation section

Explanation

- **(35.1):** The standard one-line definition of sustainable development is always expected. Mentioning the Brundtland Commission adds value.
- **(35.2):** This is a direct fact — Rio Earth Summit 1992. The passage hints at it; from textbook knowledge, Agenda-21 was the key outcome of that summit.
- **(35.3):** Two distinct outcomes are needed for 2 marks (1 mark each). Focus on sustainable development goals and Agenda-21 as the key outcomes. Avoid vague statements.

Q13. § Introduction § RESOURCE PLANNING

[4]

Conservation of Resources : Resources are vital for any developmental activity. But irrational consumption and over-utilisation of resources may lead to socio-economic and environmental problems. To overcome these problems, resource conservation at various levels is important. This had been the main concern of the leaders and thinkers in the past. For example, Gandhiji was very apt in voicing his concern about resource conservation in these words: "There is enough for everybody's need and not for any body's greed." He placed the greedy and selfish individuals and exploitative nature of modern technology as the root cause for resource depletion at the global level. He was against mass production and wanted to replace it with the production by the masses.

Read the given source and answer the questions that follow :

(35.1) Define the term 'Resource Planning'. [1]

(35.2) Explain the need for conservation of resources. [1]

(35.3) Why did Gandhiji say – "There is enough for everybody's need and not for any body's greed ?" Analyse any two reasons. [2]

Previously asked in: 2024 32/4/1 Q35

♦ Resources and Development

Conservation of Resources

Gandhiji's views on resource use and sustainability

Resource Planning

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Model Answer

(35.1) Resource Planning is a strategy for judicious use of resources, which involves planning their development across different regions and then matching the resource development plan with the overall national development plan.

(35.2) Conservation of resources is needed because irrational consumption and over-utilisation of resources lead to socio-economic and environmental problems. Without conservation, resources may get depleted, hindering future developmental activities.

(35.3) Two reasons:

- **Greedy individuals:** Gandhiji identified greedy and selfish individuals as the root cause of resource depletion. Resources are sufficient for everyone's basic needs but not for unlimited greed.
- **Exploitative technology:** The exploitative nature of modern technology causes over-utilisation of resources at the global level, leading to depletion and imbalance.

Source: Chapter 1 – Resources and Development, Resource Conservation section

Explanation

- **(35.1)** Resource Planning is a standard definition from the chapter — mention "judicious use," "planning across regions," and "alignment with national development plan."
- **(35.2)** Directly from the passage: link irrational consumption → socio-economic/environmental problems → need for conservation.
- **(35.3)** The passage explicitly states two causes Gandhiji highlighted: (i) greedy/selfish individuals and (ii) exploitative nature of modern technology. Pick these two — don't invent outside reasons. Examiners expect passage-based analysis here.

Q14. § LAND RESOURCES § LAND USE PATTERN IN INDIA

[1]

Which state of India has the maximum area under permanent forest ?

- A Haryana
- B Himachal Pradesh
- C Punjab
- D Madhya Pradesh

Previously asked in: 2025 32/6/1 Q17

♦ Resources and Development

Permanent Forests – State-wise Distribution

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Model Answer**D – Madhya Pradesh**

Madhya Pradesh has the maximum area under permanent forests in India.

Explanation

This is a standard factual question from Chapter 1 (Resources and Development). The source passage mentions MP as rich in minerals, coal, and forests. Remember: Punjab and Haryana have **over 80% net sown area** (not forest cover), making D the correct choice.

Q15. § RESOURCE PLANNING

[5]

Explain the various stages of resource planning and its need in India. (3 + 2 = 5)

Previously asked in: 2025 32/6/1 Q32(b)

◆ Resources and Development

Need for Resource Planning in India

Stages of Resource Planning

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Model Answer**Stages of Resource Planning:**

Resource planning is a complex process involving three main stages:

1. **Identification and Inventory** — Surveying, mapping, and qualitative & quantitative estimation of resources across all regions of the country.
1. **Evolving a Planning Structure** — Developing appropriate technology, skills, and institutional set-up required for implementing resource development plans.
1. **Matching with National Plans** — Integrating resource development plans with the overall national development plans.

Need for Resource Planning in India:

Resource planning is essential in India due to enormous regional diversity in resource availability:

- States like Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh are rich in minerals but may lack other resources.
- Rajasthan has solar/wind energy but lacks water.
- Arunachal Pradesh has water resources but lacks infrastructure.

This uneven distribution calls for balanced planning at national, state, regional, and local levels to ensure judicious use of resources.

Source: Chapter 1 — Resources and Development, Resource Planning in India

Explanation

- The question is split **3 marks (stages) + 2 marks (need)**, so spend roughly equal effort on both parts.
- For stages, use the three-point list directly from the textbook — examiners look for these specific points.
- For need, give 2–3 examples of regional imbalance (Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh) — these are the textbook examples and fetch full marks.
- Avoid writing a general essay on planning; stick to the textbook content and keep examples specific.

Q16. § RESOURCE PLANNING

[2]

Why is planning necessary for judicious use of resources ? Explain.

Previously asked in: 2025 32/2/1 Q22

◆ Resources and Development

Judicious Use of Resources and Need for Resource Planning

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Model Answer

Planning is necessary for judicious use of resources because India has enormous diversity in resource availability — some regions are resource-rich while others face acute shortage. For example, Rajasthan has solar and wind energy but lacks water, while Arunachal Pradesh has abundant water but poor infrastructure. Balanced planning at national, state, regional and local levels ensures equitable distribution and sustainable use of resources.

Source: *Resources and Development, Resource Planning in India*

Explanation

- The key phrase the examiner wants is "**enormous diversity in availability of resources**" — uneven distribution across regions.
- Give **1–2 specific examples** from the textbook (Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh) to score full marks.
- Mention **balanced planning at various levels** as the solution — this is the concluding point examiners expect.
- Avoid vague statements like "resources are important" — be specific about regional imbalance.

Q17. § LAND RESOURCES § LAND DEGRADATION AND CONSERVATION MEASURES

[2]

Describe any two ways to solve the problem of land degradation.

Previously asked in: 2025 32/5/1 Q22

◆ Resources and Development

Land Degradation and Conservation Measures

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Model Answer

Two ways to solve the problem of land degradation are:

1. **Afforestation and proper management of grazing** — Planting trees (shelter belts) and controlling overgrazing help restore degraded land.
2. **Control of mining activities and proper disposal of industrial effluents** — Treating and disposing industrial waste correctly reduces land and water degradation.

Source: *Resources and Development, Land Degradation and Conservation Measures*

Explanation

The textbook directly lists several methods; pick any two clearly stated ones. Examiners expect you to **name** the method and briefly explain it — one line each. Avoid vague answers like "stop pollution." Using exact textbook terms (afforestation, shelter belts, industrial effluents) scores full marks. This is a 2-mark question, so two distinct points are sufficient — no elaboration needed beyond a phrase of justification.

Q18. § LAND RESOURCES § LAND DEGRADATION AND CONSERVATION MEASURES**[2]**

Suggest any two ways to solve the problem of land degradation.

Previously asked in: 2024 32/3/1 Q22(a)

♦ Resources and Development

Land Degradation and Conservation Measures

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Model Answer

Two ways to solve the problem of land degradation:

1. **Afforestation** – Planting trees and proper management of grazing helps restore degraded land and prevents further soil erosion.
2. **Control of mining activities** – Proper discharge and disposal of industrial effluents and wastes after treatment reduces land and water degradation.

Source: Resources and Development, Land Degradation and Conservation Measures

Explanation

The textbook lists several methods — afforestation, shelter belts, controlled overgrazing, stabilisation of sand dunes, and proper industrial waste disposal. For a 2-mark question, name **two distinct methods** with a brief reason each. Avoid listing only headings without explanation — examiners expect one supporting line per point.

Q19. § LAND UTILISATION**[1]**

Which of the following is an example of 'current fallow land' ?

- A Land left without cultivation for five agricultural years.
- B Land left without cultivation for three agricultural years.
- C Land left without cultivation for two agricultural years.
- D Land left without cultivation for one agricultural year.

Previously asked in: 2026 32/5/1 Q14

♦ Resources and Development

Types of Land Use - Current Fallow Land

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Model Answer

Option D — Land left without cultivation for **one agricultural year** (or less than one agricultural year) is called current fallow land.

Explanation

The textbook (Land Utilisation section) clearly defines current fallow as land "left without cultivation for one or less than one agricultural year." Examiners expect the exact definition; do not confuse it with "other than current fallow" (1–5 years) or "culturable waste land" (more than 5 years).

Q20. § LAND USE PATTERN IN INDIA

[1]

Choose the correct option related to the factors that determined the land use pattern in India :

- (A) Political and Religious factors
- (B) Cultural and Geological factors
- (C) Economical and Historical factors
- (D) Physical and Human factors

Previously asked in: 2026 32/1/1 Q14

♦ Resources and Development

Factors determining land use pattern

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Model Answer**(D) Physical and Human factors**

The use of land is determined by **physical factors** (topography, climate, soil types) as well as **human factors** (population density, technological capability, culture and traditions).

Explanation

The textbook directly states: "The use of land is determined both by physical factors such as topography, climate, soil types as well as human factors such as population density, technological capability and culture and traditions." Option (D) is the exact match. The other options mix incorrect or partially irrelevant terms not mentioned in this context.

Q21. § LAND RESOURCES § LAND USE PATTERN IN INDIA

[1]

In which of the following States of India, has the largest area under permanent forests ?

- A Uttar Pradesh
- B Madhya Pradesh
- C Gujarat
- D Maharashtra

Previously asked in: 2026 32/5/1 Q11

♦ Resources and Development

Distribution of Permanent Forests in India

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Model Answer**Answer: (B) Madhya Pradesh**

Madhya Pradesh has the largest area under permanent forests in India.

Source: Resources and Development, Land Use Pattern in India

Explanation

The source passages mention Madhya Pradesh as rich in minerals, coal deposits, and forests. The NCERT textbook (Contemporary India II, Chapter 1) consistently cites Madhya Pradesh as having the highest forest cover among Indian states. Remember: the question asks about **permanent forests** (reserved + protected), not just any forest cover — MP tops this category. This is a standard factual MCQ; just write the option and one supporting line.

Q22. § LAND RESOURCES § LAND UTILISATION § LAND DEGRADATION AND CONSERVATION MEASURES

[3]

Explain any three main factors responsible for land degradation.

Previously asked in: 2026 32/2/1 Q15

◆ Resources and Development

Land Degradation

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Model Answer

Three main factors responsible for land degradation are:

1. **Deforestation and Mining:** Mining leads to abandoned sites with deep scars. In states like Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha, deforestation due to mining has caused severe land degradation.
1. **Overgrazing:** In states like Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh, overgrazing is one of the main reasons for land degradation.
1. **Over-irrigation:** In Punjab, Haryana, and western Uttar Pradesh, over-irrigation causes waterlogging, leading to increased salinity and alkalinity in the soil, thus degrading the land.

Source: Resources and Development, Land Degradation and Conservation Measures

Explanation

- The examiner expects **three distinct factors** with a **state-level example** for each — this shows you've read the textbook carefully and earns full marks.
- Key terms to use: **waterlogging, salinity/alkalinity, overgrazing, mining scars** — these are the exact words from the NCERT text.
- Avoid vague answers like "human activities harm land" — be specific with causes and locations.

Q23. § LAND DEGRADATION AND CONSERVATION MEASURES**[1]**

Mention the main reason for land degradation in states like Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha.

- (a) Over-grazing
- (b) Mining
- (c) Over irrigation
- (d) Mineral processing

Previously asked in: 2023 32/5/1 Q7

♦ Resources and Development

Land Degradation - Causes in Mining States (Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha)

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Model Answer**(b) Mining**

In states like Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha, deforestation due to mining has caused severe land degradation.

Source: Resources and Development, Land Degradation and Conservation Measures

Explanation

The passage directly states: "In states like Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha deforestation due to mining have caused severe land degradation." Note: the answer is **Mining** (b), not "Mineral processing" (d) — mineral processing causes dust that retards water infiltration, which is a different mechanism. Over-grazing relates to Gujarat/Rajasthan, and over-irrigation to Punjab/Haryana. Always match the cause to the correct state group.

Q24. § SOIL AS A RESOURCE**[1]**

Identify the soil with the help of the following informations given in the box and choose the correct option :

- It is made up of extremely fine material.
- It is rich in soil nutrients.
- It is ideal for growing cotton.

- A Alluvial Soil
- B Black Soil
- C Laterite Soil
- D Arid Soil

Previously asked in: 2026 32/5/1 Q10

◆ Resources and Development

Black Soil (Regur Soil)

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Model Answer**Answer: (B) Black Soil**

Black soil is made up of extremely fine (clayey) material, is rich in nutrients like calcium carbonate and potash, and is ideal for growing cotton (also called black cotton soil).

Source: Resources and Development, Classification of Soils – Black Soil

Explanation

All three clues point directly to **Black Soil (Regur soil)**:

- "Extremely fine material" → clayey texture of black soil
- "Rich in soil nutrients" → calcium carbonate, magnesium, potash, lime
- "Ideal for growing cotton" → its alternate name is **black cotton soil**

Alluvial soil is ideal for wheat/sugarcane; Laterite is acidic and nutrient-deficient; Arid soil is sandy. Eliminate these confidently.

Q25. § LAND RESOURCES § SOIL AS A RESOURCE**[2]**

Describe any two features of 'arid soils'.

Previously asked in: 2025 32/3/1 Q23(a)

♦ Resources and Development

Arid Soils - Features and Characteristics

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Model Answer

Two features of arid soils:

1. **Sandy and saline:** Arid soils are generally sandy in texture and saline in nature. Due to high temperature and rapid evaporation, they lack humus and moisture.
1. **Kankar layer:** The lower horizons are occupied by Kankar (calcium deposits) which restricts infiltration of water into the soil.

Source: Resources and Development, Classification of Soils – Arid Soils

Explanation

- The question asks for any **two** features, so two clearly distinct points are enough — don't write more.
- Examiners expect specific textbook terms: *sandy texture*, *saline*, *Kankar layer*, *lacks humus/moisture*. Using these exact terms scores full marks.
- Colour (red to brown) can also be mentioned as a feature if needed as a substitute point.

Q26. § SOIL AS A RESOURCE**[2]**

Describe any two features of 'forest soils'.

Previously asked in: 2025 32/3/1 Q23(b)

♦ Resources and Development

Forest Soils

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Model Answer**Features of Forest Soils:**

1. **Texture varies with relief** — The soils are loamy and silty on valley sides but coarse-grained on upper slopes. In snow-covered Himalayan areas, they are acidic with low humus content.
1. **Fertile in lower valleys** — Soils found in the lower parts of valleys, particularly on river terraces and alluvial fans, are fertile.

Source: Resources and Development, Classification of Soils – Forest Soils

Explanation

The question asks for **any two** features, so pick two distinct points from the textbook paragraph on forest soils. Examiners expect: location/texture variation AND humus/acidity OR fertility of lower valleys. Avoid repeating the same idea in different words. Each feature should be one clear sentence.

Q27. § SOIL AS A RESOURCE**[1]**

Read the following characteristics of a soil and identify the soil from the given options.

- It is widely spread and important soil.
- Northern plains are made of it.
- It consists of sand, silt and clay.

- (A) Yellow soil
- (B) Black soil
- (C) Laterite soil
- (D) Alluvial soil

Previously asked in: 2024 32/2/1 Q6

♦ Resources and Development

Alluvial Soil

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Model Answer**(D) Alluvial soil**

Alluvial soil is the most widely spread and important soil; the northern plains are made of it, and it consists of various proportions of sand, silt and clay.

Explanation

All three characteristics directly match the description of **Alluvial soil** given in the textbook. Examiners expect you to pick the option that matches all given clues — "widely spread," "northern plains," and "sand, silt and clay" are the key identifiers of alluvial soil. Remember: Black soil = Deccan trap/cotton; Laterite = leaching/monsoon; Yellow/Red soil = Deccan plateau igneous rocks.

Q28. § SOIL AS A RESOURCE**[1]**

Match Column I with Column II and choose the correct option :

Column I (Type of Soil): a. Alluvial soil; b. Black soil; c. Laterite soil; d. Arid soil

Column II (Characteristic): i. Sandy in texture and saline in nature; ii. Very fertile, containing potash, phosphorus and lime; iii. Made from lava parent rocks, suitable for cotton cultivation; iv. Decrease in humus content in semi-arid environment

- (A) a-ii, b-iii, c-i, d-iv
- (B) a-iii, b-ii, c-iv, d-i
- (C) a-ii, b-iii, c-iv, d-i
- (D) a-iii, b-ii, c-i, d-iv

Previously asked in: 2026 32/3/1 Q11

♦ Resources and Development

Types of Soils and Their Characteristics

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Model Answer**(C) a-ii, b-iii, c-iv, d-i**

Alluvial soil contains potash, phosphorus and lime (ii); Black soil is made from lava/Deccan trap, suitable for cotton (iii); Laterite soil has decreased humus in semi-arid environment (iv); Arid soil is sandy and saline (i).

Explanation

Match each soil type with its most distinctive characteristic from the textbook. The key distinguisher for laterite is "humus poor in semi-arid environment" (not sandy/saline — that's arid). Arid = sandy + saline. Black soil = lava (Deccan trap) + cotton. Alluvial = potash, phosphoric acid, lime = fertile. Option C is the only one with all four correct pairs.

Q29. § SOIL AS A RESOURCE**[1]**

Read the given infographics carefully and choose the correct option that identifies the soil described.

- (1) Sandy in texture
- (2) Red to brown in colour
- (3) Soil lacks humus due to dry climate

- (A) Laterite soil
- (B) Forest soil
- (C) Arid soil
- (D) Black soil

Previously asked in: 2026 32/4/1 Q10

♦ Resources and Development

Arid Soil (classification of soils)

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Model Answer**(C) Arid soil**

Arid soils range from red to brown in colour, are sandy in texture, and due to dry climate, high temperature, and faster evaporation, the soil lacks humus and moisture.

Source: Resources and Development, Classification of Soils – Arid Soils

Explanation

All three clues in the infographic directly match the textbook description of **Arid soil**: (1) sandy texture, (2) red to brown colour, (3) lack of humus due to dry climate and high evaporation. Laterite soil is acidic and leached; Black soil is dark and clayey; Forest soil is loamy/silty. Examiners expect you to match all given clues to the correct soil type.

Q30. § LAND RESOURCES § SOIL AS A RESOURCE**[5]**

Explain the main features of alluvial soil.

Previously asked in: 2025 32/6/1 Q32(a)

♦ Resources and Development

Alluvial Soil – Features and Distribution

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Model Answer

Alluvial Soil is the most widespread and important soil of India. Its main features are:

1. **Distribution:** It covers the entire Northern Plains, deposited by the Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra river systems. It also extends through a narrow corridor in Rajasthan and Gujarat, and in the eastern coastal deltas (Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri).
1. **Composition:** It consists of various proportions of sand, silt and clay. Soil particles are coarser near piedmont plains (Duars, Chos, Terai) and finer towards the river valleys.
1. **Types:** Based on age, it is classified as **Bangar** (old alluvial — more kankar nodules, less fertile) and **Khadar** (new alluvial — finer particles, more fertile).
1. **Fertility:** Very fertile; contains adequate potash, phosphoric acid and lime — ideal for sugarcane, paddy, wheat, and pulses.
1. **Population:** Regions with alluvial soil are intensively cultivated and densely populated. Soils in drier areas are alkaline and become productive after irrigation.

Source: *Resources and Development, Classification of Soils — Alluvial Soils*

Explanation

- Examiners expect **5 distinct points** for a 5-mark answer — one point per mark is the safe strategy.
- Always mention **distribution, types (Bangar/Khadar), composition, fertility, and crops** — these are the standard sub-topics tested.
- Avoid writing vague lines like "it is very good soil." Use specific terms: kankar, potash, phosphoric acid, piedmont plains.
- The answer above is ~120 words — ideal for 5 marks.

Q31. § SOIL AS A RESOURCE**[1]**

A researcher is examining a soil type which is formed by the weathering of volcanic rock and is rich in minerals. Which one of the following soils is it ?

- (a) Laterite soil
- (b) Alluvial soil
- (c) Black soil
- (d) Desert soil

Previously asked in: 2025 32/4/1 Q5

♦ Resources and Development

Black Soil (formed by weathering of volcanic rock, rich in minerals)

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Model Answer**(c) Black soil**

Black soil is formed from lava flows (volcanic/basalt rock) of the Deccan Trap and is rich in minerals like calcium carbonate, magnesium, potash and lime.

Source: Resources and Development, Classification of Soils – Black Soil

Explanation

The key phrase is "weathering of volcanic rock." The textbook states black soil is typical of the Deccan Trap (Basalt) region made up of lava flows. Laterite forms due to leaching in heavy rainfall; alluvial soil is deposited by rivers; desert soil is sandy. Examiners expect you to link "volcanic rock/basalt/lava" directly to black soil.

Q32. § SOIL AS A RESOURCE**[1]**

Which one of the following soils develops in an area with high temperature and heavy rainfall ?

- (a) Red and Yellow
- (b) Black
- (c) Alluvial
- (d) Laterite

Previously asked in: 2023 32/2/1 Q5

♦ Resources and Development

Laterite Soil

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Model Answer**(d) Laterite**

Laterite soil develops under tropical conditions with high temperature and heavy rainfall, resulting in intense leaching of soil nutrients.

Source: Resources and Development, Laterite Soil section

Explanation

The passage clearly states: "The laterite soil develops under tropical and subtropical climate with alternate wet and dry season. This soil is the result of intense leaching due to heavy rain." This directly matches the condition of high temperature and heavy rainfall in the question. Students often confuse this with Red and Yellow soil, but that develops in areas of **low rainfall**. Remember the keyword: **leaching = laterite**.

Q33. § SOIL AS A RESOURCE**[1]**

Identify the soil with the help of following information.

- It develops in areas with high temperature.
- It is the result of intense leaching due to heavy rain.
- Humus content is low.

- (a) Arid soil
- (b) Yellow soil
- (c) Laterite soil
- (d) Black soil

Previously asked in: 2024 32/1/1 Q7

♦ Resources and Development

Laterite Soil

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Model Answer**(c) Laterite soil**

Laterite soil develops in areas with high temperature under tropical climate. It is the result of intense leaching due to heavy rain and is generally humus poor (especially under sparse vegetation).

Source: Resources and Development, Laterite Soil

Explanation

The passage directly states: "This soil is the result of intense leaching due to heavy rain" and "it is generally humus poor" — both match the clues. Arid soil lacks humus due to dry/hot climate (not heavy rain), so it is a common distractor. Black soil is humus-rich. Always match **all** clues to eliminate wrong options.

Q34. § SOIL AS A RESOURCE**[1]**

Identify the correct soil from the given options to complete the flow chart :

- (A) Alluvial soil
- (B) Laterite soil
- (C) Red soil
- (D) Black soil

Previously asked in: 2026 32/1/1 Q10

♦ Resources and Development

Classification of soils in India

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Model Answer**(B) Laterite soil**

Heavy rainfall causes intense leaching, forming Laterite soil. After proper soil conservation in Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, it is useful for growing tea and coffee.

Source: Resources and Development, Laterite Soil

Explanation

The passage directly states: "This soil is the result of intense leaching due to heavy rain... this soil is very useful for growing tea and coffee." Alluvial soil supports wheat/paddy; Black soil supports cotton; Red soil forms due to iron diffusion — none match the flowchart clues of heavy rainfall + leaching + tea/coffee.

Q35. § TYPES OF FARMING § Technological and Institutional Reforms

[1]

In which of the following categories of 'land-use' has India registered an increase ?

- (A) Permanent pasture
- (B) Unsuitable for agriculture
- (C) Barren
- (D) Forest

Previously asked in: 2026 32/4/1 Q14

♦ Agriculture

Land-use pattern and changes in India

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Model Answer

(D) Forest

Forest area in India has shown a marginal increase over the years, while permanent pasture, barren land, and land unsuitable for agriculture have decreased or remained stagnant.

Source: Resources and Development, Land Use Pattern in India

Explanation

The textbook states that land under permanent pastures has **decreased**. Barren/waste land and non-agricultural uses have not shown notable increases. Forest cover, though still far below the desired 33%, has registered a marginal increase since 1960-61, making **(D) Forest** the correct answer. Remember: the question asks which category has seen an **increase** — elimination of the other options is a useful strategy here.

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