

CBSE CLASS X
Social Science (087)

ANSWER KEY

AI-generated question paper

Code: XLJHS5

Questions: 39

Maximum Marks: 80

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SELECTIONS USED

Subject	Social Science
Lessons	2 Forest and Wildlife Resources
Level of understanding	Exam-ready
Question selection	CBSE board paper, whole lesson (~80 marks across Sections A-E)
Model	claude-sonnet-4-6

Composition — Difficulty: 13 straightforward · 18 medium · 8 deep | Types: 16 MCQ · 7 Short · 6 Very short · 4 Assertion–reason · 3 Long · 3 Case-based | Sections: A 20Q/20m · B 6Q/12m · C 7Q/21m · D 3Q/15m · E 3Q/12m

Q1. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

Which of the following Acts was implemented in 1972 to protect wildlife habitats in India?

- (A) Forest Conservation Act
- (B) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act
- (C) Environment Protection Act
- (D) Biodiversity Act

- A Forest Conservation Act
- B Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act
- C Environment Protection Act
- D Biodiversity Act

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Model Answer**(B) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act**

The Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act was implemented in **1972** to protect wildlife habitats by banning hunting, giving legal protection to habitats, and restricting trade in wildlife.

Explanation

The passage from Chapter 2 explicitly states: "*The Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act was implemented in 1972, with various provisions for protecting habitats.*" The other options refer to different Acts enacted in different years. For MCQs, always look for the exact year and name mentioned in the textbook.

Q2. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

In which year was Project Tiger launched in India?

- (A) 1952
(B) 1972
(C) 1973
(D) 1980

A 1952

B 1972

C 1973

D 1980

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Model Answer**(C) 1973**

Project Tiger was launched in 1973, when authorities found tiger population had dwindled to 1,827 from an estimated 55,000 at the turn of the century.

Source: Project Tiger, Chapter 2

Explanation

The passage clearly states "*Project Tiger'... was launched in 1973.*" Note that 1972 is when the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act was implemented — a common distractor. Students often confuse these two dates, so remember: **Act = 1972, Project Tiger = 1973.**

Q3. straightforward exam-ready**[1]**

What was the estimated tiger population in India at the turn of the 20th century, before it declined severely?

- (A) 1,827
- (B) 10,000
- (C) 55,000
- (D) 25,000

- A 1,827
- B 10,000
- C 55,000
- D 25,000

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Model Answer**(C) 55,000**

The estimated tiger population in India at the turn of the 20th century was **55,000**, which had declined to just 1,827 by 1973.

Source: Project Tiger, Chapter 2

Explanation

The passage clearly states: "the tiger population had dwindled to 1,827 from an estimated 55,000 at the turn of the century." Option (A) 1,827 is the *declined* population recorded in 1973, not the original estimate — a common trap in this question. Always read carefully to distinguish between the two figures given.

Q4. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

Which state has the largest area under permanent forests, constituting 75 per cent of its total forest area?

- (A) Kerala
- (B) West Bengal
- (C) Madhya Pradesh
- (D) Uttarakhand

- A Kerala
- B West Bengal
- C Madhya Pradesh
- D Uttarakhand

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Model Answer**(C) Madhya Pradesh**

Madhya Pradesh has the largest area under permanent forests, constituting 75 per cent of its total forest area.

Source: Types and Distribution of Forest and Wildlife Resources, Chapter 2

Explanation

The answer is directly stated in the passage: "*Madhya Pradesh has the largest area under permanent forests, constituting 75 per cent of its total forest area.*" For a 1-mark MCQ, simply write the option letter and a one-line supporting statement. Do not elaborate further.

Q5. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

Which of the following forest categories is regarded as most valuable for the conservation of forest and wildlife resources?

- (A) Unclassed forests
- (B) Protected forests
- (C) Reserved forests
- (D) Community forests

- A Unclassed forests
- B Protected forests
- C Reserved forests
- D Community forests

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Model Answer**(C) Reserved forests**

Reserved forests are regarded as the most valuable as far as the conservation of forest and wildlife resources are concerned.

Source: Types and Distribution of Forest and Wildlife Resources, Chapter 2

Explanation

The textbook explicitly states that reserved forests are "regarded as the most valuable as far as the conservation of forest and wildlife resources are concerned." This is directly confirmed by the Match the Following exercise in the chapter. Students must not confuse Reserved Forests with Protected Forests — protected forests are merely protected from further depletion, not classified as most valuable.

Q6. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

[mcq] In which year was the Joint Forest Management (JFM) programme formally launched in India?

- (A) 1972
- (B) 1980
- (C) 1988
- (D) 1991

- A 1972
- B 1980
- C 1988
- D 1991

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Model Answer**(D) 1991**

The JFM programme has been in formal existence since **1988**, when Odisha passed the first resolution — so the correct answer is **(C) 1988**.

Explanation

The source passage (Community and Conservation, Chapter 2) clearly states: *"The programme has been in formal existence since 1988 when the state of Odisha passed the first resolution for joint forest management."* Option (D) 1991 is a distractor (that year relates to plants being added to the protected species list). Students must read carefully — 1972 is the Wildlife Protection Act, 1973 is Project Tiger, and 1988 is JFM.

Q7. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

In which district of Rajasthan did villagers declare 1,200 hectares of forest as the Bhairodev Dakav 'Sonchuri'?

- (A) Jaipur
- (B) Barmer
- (C) Alwar
- (D) Jodhpur

- A Jaipur
- B Barmer
- C Alwar
- D Jodhpur

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Model Answer**(C) Alwar**

The inhabitants of five villages in the **Alwar district** of Rajasthan declared 1,200 hectares of forest as the Bhairodev Dakav 'Sonchuri'.

Source: Community and Conservation, Chapter 2

Explanation

The passage explicitly states "five villages in the **Alwar district** of Rajasthan." This is a direct fact-based question; students must not confuse it with Sariska Tiger Reserve (also in Rajasthan) mentioned nearby in the same paragraph. Option C is the only correct answer.

Q8. medium exam-ready**[1]**

Match Column-I (Tiger Reserves/National Parks) with Column-II (States) and select the correct option:

Column-I: a. Corbett National Park, b. Manas Tiger Reserve, c. Periyar Tiger Reserve, d. Bandhavgarh National Park

Column-II: i. Madhya Pradesh, ii. Kerala, iii. Assam, iv. Uttarakhand

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

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

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

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

A a-iv, b-iii, c-ii, d-i

B a-i, b-ii, c-iii, d-iv

C a-iii, b-iv, c-i, d-ii

D a-iv, b-ii, c-iii, d-i

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Model Answer

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

Corbett – Uttarakhand, Manas – Assam, Periyar – Kerala, Bandhavgarh – Madhya Pradesh.

Source: Project Tiger, Chapter 2

Explanation

The passage directly states: "Corbett National Park in **Uttarakhand**, Manas Tiger Reserve in **Assam**, Periyar Tiger Reserve in **Kerala**, Bandhavgarh National Park in **Madhya Pradesh**." Option A matches all four correctly. Students must memorise these standard tiger reserve–state pairs as they appear frequently in MCQs and map-based questions.

Q9. medium exam-ready

[1]

[mcq] Which of the following animals has NOT been covered under a special conservation project launched by the Government of India?

- (A) One-horned rhinoceros
- (B) Gharial
- (C) Snow leopard
- (D) Bengal fox

- A One-horned rhinoceros
- B Gharial
- C Snow leopard
- D Bengal fox

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Model Answer**(D) Bengal fox**

The Government of India launched special conservation projects for the tiger, one-horned rhinoceros, Gharial, Asiatic lion, snow leopard, and others — but **not** the Bengal fox.

Explanation

The textbook (Chapter 2) lists animals covered under special government projects: tiger, one-horned rhinoceros, Kashmir stag, three crocodile species (including Gharial), Asiatic lion, Indian elephant, black buck, great Indian bustard, and snow leopard. Bengal fox does not appear in this list, making (D) the correct answer. In MCQs like this, look for the animal *absent* from the textbook's enumerated list.

Q10. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

Which of the following correctly describes 'Unclassed Forests'?

- (A) Forests declared most valuable and fully reserved by the government
 - (B) Forest lands protected from any further depletion
 - (C) Other forests and wastelands belonging to both government and private individuals and communities
 - (D) Forests managed exclusively by the Forest Department
- A Forests declared most valuable and fully reserved by the government
 - B Forest lands protected from any further depletion
 - C Other forests and wastelands belonging to both government and private individuals and communities
 - D Forests managed exclusively by the Forest Department

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Model Answer

The correct answer is **(C) Other forests and wastelands belonging to both government and private individuals and communities.**

Explanation

The textbook explicitly defines Unclassed Forests as "other forests and wastelands belonging to both government and private individuals and communities." Options A and B describe Reserved and Protected Forests respectively. Option D is not a defined category in the textbook.

Source: Types and Distribution of Forest and Wildlife Resources, Chapter 2

Q11. medium exam-ready

[1]

In which year were plants first added to the list of protected species under the Wildlife Act, with six species included initially?

- (A) 1972
- (B) 1980
- (C) 1986
- (D) 1991

A 1972

B 1980

C 1986

D 1991

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Model Answer**(D) 1991**

In 1991, plants were added to the list of protected species under the Wildlife Act for the first time, with six species included initially.

Source: Project Tiger, Chapter 2

Explanation

The passage clearly states: *"In 1991, for the first time plants were also added to the list, starting with six species."* Note that 1972 was when the Wildlife Protection Act was implemented, and 1980/1986 were years when insects were added — common distractors here. Always read options carefully against the specific detail asked.

Q12. medium exam-ready

[1]

The Beej Bachao Andolan and Navdanya movements demonstrated that:

- (A) Synthetic chemicals are essential for crop production
- (B) Diversified crop production without synthetic chemicals is possible and economically viable
- (C) Community forests should be handed over to the government
- (D) Traditional crop varieties are inferior to modern hybrid seeds

- A Synthetic chemicals are essential for crop production
- B Diversified crop production without synthetic chemicals is possible and economically viable
- C Community forests should be handed over to the government
- D Traditional crop varieties are inferior to modern hybrid seeds

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Model Answer**(B) Diversified crop production without synthetic chemicals is possible and economically viable.****Explanation**

The passage directly states: "Farmers and citizen's groups like the Beej Bachao Andolan in Tehri and Navdanya have shown that adequate levels of diversified crop production without the use of synthetic chemicals are possible and economically viable." Quote this line mentally to confirm option B. All other options contradict the passage.

Q13. medium exam-ready

[1]

Which of the following regions of India has a very high percentage of forests managed as unclassed forests by local communities?

- (A) Bihar and Haryana
- (B) All North-eastern states and parts of Gujarat
- (C) Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand
- (D) Kerala and Tamil Nadu

- A Bihar and Haryana
- B All North-eastern states and parts of Gujarat
- C Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand
- D Kerala and Tamil Nadu

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Model Answer**(B) All North-eastern states and parts of Gujarat**

These regions have a very high percentage of their forests as unclassed forests, managed by local communities.

Explanation

The answer is directly stated in the textbook passage: "*All North-eastern states and parts of Gujarat have a very high percentage of their forests as unclassed forests managed by local communities.*" Students must remember that unclassed forests belong to both government and private individuals/communities — unlike reserved or protected forests which are managed by the Forest Department.

Q14. medium exam-ready

[1]

[mcq] Which of the following conservation efforts does NOT directly involve local community participation?

- (A) Chipko Movement
- (B) Joint Forest Management
- (C) Project Tiger (government-run tiger reserves)
- (D) Beej Bachao Andolan

- A Chipko Movement
- B Joint Forest Management
- C Demarcation of Wildlife Sanctuaries
- D Beej Bachao Andolan

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Model Answer**(C) Demarcation of Wildlife Sanctuaries**

Demarcating wildlife sanctuaries is a government administrative activity and does not directly involve local community participation, unlike Chipko Movement, JFM, or Beej Bachao Andolan.

Explanation

The textbook exercise (Chapter 2, Q1(i)) directly lists "Demarcation of Wildlife sanctuaries" as the correct answer. The other three options — Chipko Movement, Beej Bachao Andolan, and Joint Forest Management — are all explicitly described in the chapter as community-driven conservation efforts. Note: the options in this question differ slightly from the original (Project Tiger replaced by Demarcation of Wildlife Sanctuaries), so always match the options given — here (C) is correct.

Source: Chapter 2, Exercises (MCQ) & Community and Conservation section.

Q15. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

The Mundas and Santhal tribals of the Chota Nagpur region worship which pair of trees?

- (A) Peepal and Banyan
- (B) Mahua and Kadamba
- (C) Tamarind and Mango
- (D) Neem and Bamboo

- A Peepal and Banyan
- B Mahua and Kadamba
- C Tamarind and Mango
- D Neem and Bamboo

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Model Answer**(B) Mahua and Kadamba**

The Mundas and Santhal tribals of the Chota Nagpur region worship the **mahua** (*Bassia latifolia*) and **kadamba** (*Anthocephalus cadamba*) trees.

Explanation

The answer is directly stated in the "Sacred Groves" passage. Note that peepal and banyan are sacred to many Indians in general (not specifically Mundas/Santhals), and tamarind and mango are worshipped by tribals of Odisha and Bihar during weddings — both are common distractors here.

Q16. straightforward exam-ready**[1]**

Two nations provide habitat to about two-thirds of the surviving tiger population in the world, making them prime targets for poaching. Identify the correct pair.

- (A) India and Sri Lanka
- (B) India and Bangladesh
- (C) India and Nepal
- (D) India and Bhutan

- A India and Sri Lanka
- B India and Bangladesh
- C India and Nepal
- D India and Bhutan

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Model Answer**(C) India and Nepal**

Since India and Nepal provide habitat to about two-thirds of the surviving tiger population in the world, these two nations became prime targets for poaching and illegal trading.

Explanation

The passage explicitly states: *"Since India and Nepal provide habitat to about two-thirds of the surviving tiger population in the world, these two nations became prime targets for poaching and illegal trading."* This makes option (C) the only correct answer. Do not confuse with neighbouring countries like Bangladesh or Bhutan — only Nepal is mentioned in the textbook.

Source: Project Tiger, Chapter 2 (Forest and Wildlife Resources)

Q17. medium exam-ready

[1]

[assertion_reason] Assertion (A): Forests play a key role in the ecological system as well as in human economic and social development.

Reason (R): Forests support biodiversity, regulate climate, maintain soil and water resources, and provide livelihood to millions of people.

- (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

- A Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
B Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
C A is true but R is false.
D A is false but R is true.

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Model Answer

(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Forests form the primary ecological system and support biodiversity, regulate climate, maintain soil and water — directly explaining their key role in ecological and human development.

Source: Flora and Fauna in India, Chapter 2

Explanation

The passage explicitly states "Forests play a key role in the ecological system as these are also the primary producers on which all other living beings depend." The Reason directly explains *why* forests are key — through biodiversity support, climate regulation, and livelihood provision — making **(A)** the correct option. Ensure you don't choose (B); R is indeed the correct explanation, not just an additional true statement.

Q18. medium exam-ready

[1]

[assertion_reason] Assertion (A): The Chipko Movement in Uttarakhand successfully resisted commercial logging and demonstrated that local communities can be powerful agents of forest conservation.

Reason (R): The Chipko Movement was initiated and funded by the central government to increase timber production in the Himalayan region.

- (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

- A Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
B Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
C A is true but R is false.
D A is false but R is true.

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Model Answer**(C) A is true but R is false.**

The Chipko Movement was a grassroots community movement that resisted commercial logging, not a government-funded initiative to increase timber production.

Explanation

The textbook states the Chipko Movement "successfully resisted deforestation in several areas," making **A true**. The Reason is factually incorrect — Chipko was a community-led movement *against* deforestation, not initiated or funded by the government to increase timber production. Hence **R is false**, making option **(C)** correct. Examiners expect you to verify both the truth of A and R independently, then check if R correctly explains A.

Q19. medium exam-ready

[1]

Assertion (A): Conservation of forests and wildlife is essential for maintaining ecological diversity and our life support systems.

Reason (R): Conservation also preserves the genetic diversity of plants and animals for better growth of species and breeding.

- (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

- A Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
B Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
C A is true but R is false.
D A is false but R is true.

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Model Answer**(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.**

Assertion A is true — conservation preserves ecological diversity and life support systems. Reason R is also true — conservation preserves genetic diversity for better growth and breeding. However, R states an *additional* benefit of conservation, not the explanation for why ecological diversity and life support systems must be maintained.

Explanation

The passage states both points together: conservation "preserves the ecological diversity and our life support systems" AND "also preserves the genetic diversity of plants and animals for better growth of species and breeding." Since R gives a separate/parallel reason rather than explaining *why* A is true, the answer is (B). Students often confuse (A) and (B); here, R is a complementary benefit, not a causal explanation.

Q20. deep exam-ready

[1]

[assertion_reason] Assertion (A): In India, reserved forests constitute more than half of the total forest land.

Reason (R): Reserved forests are regarded as the most valuable forests for conservation and are under the direct control of the government.

- (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
 (B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
 (C) A is true but R is false.
 (D) A is false but R is true.

- A Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
 B Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
 C A is true but R is false.
 D A is false but R is true.

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Model Answer

(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.

Assertion is true — more than half of total forest land is reserved forest. Reason is also true — reserved forests are most valuable for conservation. However, R does not explain *why* more than half the forest land is reserved; it only describes what reserved forests are.

Explanation

The key here is that both statements are factually correct (directly from the textbook). However, the Reason explains the *nature/importance* of reserved forests, not *why* they cover more than half the forest land. The cause-effect link between R and A is absent, so option (B) is correct. Always check whether R logically causes or explains A, not just whether both are true.

Q21. medium exam-ready

[2]

What are Sacred Groves? Explain their significance for biodiversity conservation.

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Model Answer

Sacred Groves are patches of forest left untouched by local communities out of religious reverence, considered forests of gods and goddesses. Any interference with them is strictly banned.

Significance: They protect rare and diverse species in their natural, undisturbed state. They conserve biodiversity by preserving virgin forests, sheltering plants and wildlife that might otherwise be destroyed.

Explanation

- 1 mark: Definition — mention "untouched/virgin forest patches," religious/tribal belief, banned interference.
- 1 mark: Significance — link to biodiversity conservation (rare species preserved, undisturbed habitat).
- Key phrase to include: "forests of God and Goddesses" and the idea that nature worship drives conservation.
- Avoid listing tree examples unless you have space; focus on the concept and significance.

Source: Community and Conservation, Chapter 2 (Sacred Groves — a wealth of diverse and rare species)

Q22. straightforward exam-ready

[2]

State any two major threats to tiger population in India.

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Model Answer

Two major threats to tiger population in India are:

1. **Poaching for trade** — Tiger skins and bones are traded illegally; bones are used in traditional medicines, especially in Asian countries, pushing tigers to the verge of extinction.
2. **Shrinking habitat and depletion of prey base** — Growing human population has led to destruction of tiger habitats and reduction of prey species.

Source: Project Tiger, Chapter 2

Explanation

The question asks for **two** threats — name each clearly and add a brief explanation for each to score both marks. The passage lists: poaching, shrinking habitat, depletion of prey base, and growing human population. Any two with explanation are acceptable. Avoid writing a long paragraph; two labelled points work best for a 2-mark answer.

Q23. straightforward exam-ready

[2]

Distinguish between Reserved Forests and Protected Forests.

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Model Answer

| Basis | Reserved Forests | Protected Forests |

|---|---|---|

| Area | More than half of total forest land | About one-third of total forest area |

| Status | Most valuable for conservation of forest and wildlife | Protected from any further depletion |

Source: *Types and Distribution of Forest and Wildlife Resources, Chapter 2***Explanation**

For a 2-mark distinguish question, a tabular format with two clear points of difference is ideal. Examiners look for: (1) the proportion of land under each category, and (2) the defining characteristic/purpose of each. Use the exact language from the textbook — "most valuable," "further depletion" — as these are standard expected phrases. Avoid writing long paragraphs for such short-answer questions.

Q24. medium exam-ready

[2]

Why is biodiversity important for human survival? Give two reasons.

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Model Answer

Biodiversity is important for human survival because:

1. Plants, animals, and micro-organisms together maintain the quality of air we breathe, water we drink, and soil that produces our food — all essential for our survival.
2. It preserves ecological diversity and genetic diversity of plants and animals, which supports agriculture, fisheries, and other life support systems.

Source: Forest and Wildlife Resources, Chapter 2

Explanation

The examiner expects two distinct, clearly stated reasons drawn from the chapter. The key points are: (1) biodiversity sustains basic necessities — air, water, soil/food, and (2) it maintains ecological/genetic diversity that supports agriculture and fisheries. Avoid vague statements like "nature is important." Use textbook language such as "life support systems" and "ecological diversity" for full marks.

Q25. straightforward exam-ready

[2]

[very_short_answer] Name any two animals that have been accorded legal protection against hunting and trade under the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India.

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Model Answer

Under the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, the following animals have been accorded legal protection against hunting and trade:

1. **Indian Elephant** — given full or partial legal protection against hunting and trade throughout India.
2. **Black Buck (Chinkara)** — similarly protected throughout India under the Act.

(Other valid examples: one-horned rhinoceros, Asiatic lion, snow leopard, great Indian bustard, tiger.)

Source: Conservation of Forest and Wildlife in India, Chapter 2

Explanation

The question asks for **any two** animals — so name two clearly and correctly. The passage explicitly lists: Indian elephant, black buck (chinkara), great Indian bustard (godawan), snow leopard, tiger, one-horned rhinoceros, Kashmir stag, crocodiles, and Asiatic lion. Pick any two. Write the common name; scientific name is not required. Do not waste words explaining the Act itself — just name the animals. One mark per correct animal.

Q26. medium exam-ready

[2]

How do local communities in the North-eastern states and parts of Gujarat manage their forest resources differently from other parts of India?

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Model Answer

In the North-eastern states and parts of Gujarat, forests are classified as **unclassed forests**, which are managed directly by **local communities** rather than the government's Forest Department. Unlike reserved or protected forests controlled by the state, these communities have their own traditional rules and practices to regulate and conserve forest resources.

Explanation

The key distinction examiners look for is the term "**unclassed forests**" and the fact that they are **community-managed**, not government-managed. Contrast this with reserved forests (most valuable, government-owned) and protected forests (protected from depletion by Forest Department). Always name the regions specifically — North-eastern states and parts of Gujarat.

Source: *Types and Distribution of Forest and Wildlife Resources, Chapter 2*

Q27. medium exam-ready

[3]

Explain the meaning of 'biodiversity'. Why are diverse flora and fauna often taken for granted in our daily life, and what danger does this pose?

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Model Answer

Biodiversity (Biological Diversity) refers to the immense variety of living organisms — from micro-organisms and bacteria to plants, animals, and insects — that are closely integrated through multiple networks of interdependencies in an ecological system.

Diverse flora and fauna are so deeply woven into our daily life that we take them for granted. Plants, animals, and micro-organisms maintain the quality of air, water, and soil that sustain us. However, due to growing insensitivity towards the environment, these resources are now under great stress, posing the danger of irreversible ecological imbalance and loss of our life-support systems.

Source: *Forest and Wildlife Resources, Chapter 2*

Explanation

- **1 mark** for defining biodiversity correctly (rich variety of life forms integrated through interdependencies).
- **1 mark** for explaining why we take them for granted (so well integrated in daily life that we don't notice them).
- **1 mark** for stating the danger (insensitivity causing stress/depletion, threatening air, water, soil — our life-support systems).

Examiners look for the textbook phrase "*taken for granted*" and the link between biodiversity and human survival (air, water, soil). Avoid vague answers — be specific about the danger.

Q28. medium exam-ready

[3]

What is the Joint Forest Management (JFM) programme? Describe how it works and what benefits community members receive.

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Model Answer

Joint Forest Management (JFM) is a programme that involves local communities in the management and restoration of degraded forests. It has been in formal existence since **1988**, when Odisha passed the first resolution for JFM.

How it works: JFM depends on the formation of local (village) institutions that undertake **protection activities** on degraded forest land managed by the Forest Department.

Benefits to community members: In return for their protection work, members are entitled to:

- **Intermediary benefits** like non-timber forest produce
- A **share in the timber** harvested through successful protection

Source: Community and Conservation, Chapter 2

Explanation

- Examiners expect three clear points for 3 marks: (1) definition/what JFM is, (2) how it works, (3) benefits received.
- Use the exact terms from the textbook: "degraded forests," "non-timber forest produce," "successful protection."
- The year 1988 and Odisha as the first state are important factual details — include them.
- Keep it concise; bullet points for benefits save space and look neat.

Q29. medium exam-ready

[3]

Explain how traditional conservation practices among tribal communities in India contribute to the protection of nature.

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Model Answer

Tribal communities in India contribute to nature conservation through the following traditional practices:

1. **Sacred Groves:** Tribes preserve patches of forest as sacred (forests of Gods/Goddesses), where any interference is strictly banned, protecting rare and diverse species.
1. **Tree Worship:** The Mundas and Santhal worship mahua and kadamba trees; tribes of Odisha and Bihar worship tamarind and mango trees, preventing their destruction.
1. **Protection of Animals:** In Bishnoi villages, Rajasthan, blackbuck, nilgai, and peacocks are treated as part of the community; nobody harms them.
1. **Community Rules:** Villagers in Alwar, Rajasthan, declared 1,200 hectares as 'Bhairodev Dakav Sonchuri', enforcing their own rules against hunting and outside encroachment.

Source: Community and Conservation, Chapter 2

Explanation

- The examiner expects **specific examples** from the textbook — Sacred Groves, Mundas/Santhal, Bishnoi, Alwar — at least 3 distinct points for 3 marks.
- Each point should name the community/practice and its conservation outcome.
- Avoid vague statements like "they love nature"; always cite the textbook example.
- One point per mark is a safe strategy for short-answer questions.

Q30. deep exam-ready

[3]

Tiger conservation under Project Tiger is described as serving a dual purpose. Explain what these two purposes are and why both are significant.

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Model Answer

Project Tiger was launched in 1973 with **two purposes**:

1. **Saving an endangered species** – Tiger population had drastically fallen from an estimated 55,000 to just 1,827 due to poaching, habitat loss, and depletion of prey. Conservation was urgently needed to prevent extinction.
1. **Preserving biotypes of sizeable magnitude** – Tiger reserves protect large, intact ecosystems, thereby safeguarding biodiversity and ecological balance beyond just the tiger.

Both purposes are significant: the first ensures survival of a key species in the faunal web, while the second protects entire habitats that support countless other species and maintain ecological diversity.

Source: *Project Tiger, Chapter 2*

Explanation

- The question directly targets the line: *"Tiger conservation has been viewed not only as an effort to save an endangered species, but with equal importance as a means of preserving biotypes of sizeable magnitude."* Examiners expect both points to be clearly identified and explained.
- **"Biotypes"** is a key term — it means distinct ecological habitats/ecosystems. Mentioning it scores well.
- For 3 marks: name both purposes (1 mark each) + explain significance (1 mark). Keep it under ~80 words.

Q31. medium exam-ready

[3]

How have the Bishnoi community's practices and the villagers of Sariska demonstrated that local communities can be powerful agents of wildlife conservation?

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Model Answer

The Bishnoi community of Rajasthan treats blackbuck, chinkara, nilgai, and peacocks as integral parts of their community, and nobody harms them. This reflects their deep-rooted belief in protecting all of nature's creations. In Sariska Tiger Reserve, villagers fought against illegal mining by citing the Wildlife Protection Act. In Alwar district, inhabitants of five villages declared 1,200 hectares of forest as **Bhairodev Dakav 'Sonchuri'**, enforcing their own rules against hunting and outside encroachments — without government involvement. Both examples show that local communities, driven by traditional values and livelihoods, can effectively protect wildlife and habitats.

Source: *Community and Conservation, Chapter 2*

Explanation

- The examiner expects **two specific, distinct examples** — Bishnoi and Sariska/Alwar — named clearly with relevant details.
- Mention the **Bhairodev Dakav 'Sonchuri'** declaration and the **Wildlife Protection Act** citation — these are textbook-specific facts that earn marks.
- Avoid generic statements; each point must link back to *how* these communities acted as conservation agents.
- End with a brief concluding line tying both examples to the theme of local agency.

Q32. deep exam-ready

[3]

[short_answer] India's food and livelihood security is closely linked to the conservation of biological diversity. Explain this statement with reference to forests, agriculture, and water resources.

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Model Answer

Biological diversity is essential for India's food and livelihood security in the following ways:

- **Forests:** Forests maintain water cycles, soil fertility, and air quality — the basic life-support systems for agriculture and human survival. Communities like those in Sariska depend on forests directly for their livelihoods.
- **Agriculture:** India still depends on traditional crop varieties for food production. Groups like Beej Bachao Andolan show that diversified crop production without synthetic chemicals is viable, ensuring food security through genetic diversity.
- **Water Resources:** Conservation of forests preserves water sources. Biodiversity maintains aquatic ecosystems; fisheries are heavily dependent on aquatic biodiversity for sustenance of millions.

Thus, loss of biodiversity directly threatens food production, livelihoods, and natural resources.

Source: *Conservation of Forest and Wildlife in India; Community and Conservation — Chapter 2*

Explanation

- The examiner expects you to link biodiversity to each of the three areas: forests, agriculture, and water — don't skip any.
- Use specific examples from the chapter (Beej Bachao Andolan, aquatic biodiversity for fisheries) to score full marks.
- The textbook explicitly states: "Conservation preserves the ecological diversity and our life support systems — water, air and soil" and "in agriculture, we are still dependent on traditional crop varieties" — mirror this language.
- At 3 marks, keep it to 3 focused points with brief explanation; avoid padding.

Q33. medium exam-ready

[3]

Describe the steps taken by the Government of India to protect specific endangered species since the 1970s. Name at least four species that received legal protection.

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Model Answer

The Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act was implemented in **1972**, which banned hunting, gave legal protection to habitats, and restricted trade in wildlife. An all-India list of protected species was published. The government launched **special projects** for gravely threatened animals, such as **Project Tiger (1973)**. National parks and wildlife sanctuaries were established across India.

Four species given legal protection:

1. Tiger
2. One-horned rhinoceros
3. Asiatic lion
4. Snow leopard

(Also: Gharial, Kashmir stag/hangul, Indian elephant, black buck, great Indian bustard)

Source: Conservation of Forest and Wildlife in India, Chapter 2

Explanation

- Examiner expects: mention of Wildlife Protection Act 1972, banning hunting, habitat protection, specific projects, and **at least four named species**.
- "Project Tiger 1973" is a high-value point — always include it.
- List species clearly; don't just write "many animals."
- Avoid padding with unnecessary details about forest types — stay focused on the question.

Q34. deep exam-ready

[5]

"Conservation of forests and wildlife is not merely about saving animals and trees — it is fundamentally about securing human survival." Justify this statement with examples from India's forest and wildlife conservation efforts.

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Model Answer

Forests and wildlife are not merely habitats for animals — they are the foundation of human survival.

Ecological Support Systems: Forests conserve biodiversity and maintain life-support systems — water, air, and soil. Without healthy forests, these systems collapse, directly threatening human life.

Food Security: Agriculture still depends on traditional crop varieties, and fisheries depend on aquatic biodiversity. Losing this genetic diversity would devastate food production.

Project Tiger (1973): Tiger conservation protects not just tigers but entire biotypes of significant size, preserving ecosystems that humans depend on indirectly.

Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Banning hunting and protecting habitats of endangered species — rhinoceros, Asiatic lion, Gharial — maintains ecological balance essential for human wellbeing.

Community Conservation: JFM programme, Chipko Movement, and Beej Bachao Andolan show that communities protect forests to secure their own long-term livelihoods, proving conservation and human survival are inseparable.

Source: *Conservation of Forest and Wildlife in India, Chapter 2*

Explanation

- Examiners expect you to **justify** the statement — meaning give reasons with examples, not just describe conservation efforts.
- Each point must **link** conservation to human benefit (don't just list programmes).
- Use specific named examples: Project Tiger, Wildlife Protection Act 1972, JFM, Chipko — these fetch marks.
- The phrase "biotypes of sizeable magnitude" from the passage is useful to include.
- Avoid writing an essay — 5 crisp, connected points is ideal for 5 marks.

Q35. deep exam-ready

[5]

Describe the role of local and traditional communities in the conservation of forests and wildlife in India. In your answer, refer to specific movements, programmes, and examples of community action.

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Model Answer

Local and traditional communities have played a vital role in forest and wildlife conservation in India through various movements and programmes:

1. **Chipko Movement (Himalayas):** Villagers hugged trees to resist deforestation and demonstrated that community afforestation with indigenous species can be highly successful.
1. **Beej Bachao Andolan (Tehri) and Navdanya:** Farmers showed that diversified crop production without synthetic chemicals is economically viable, preserving biodiversity.
1. **Sariska Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan:** Villagers fought against illegal mining by citing the Wildlife Protection Act.
1. **Bhairodev Dakav 'Sonchuri', Alwar:** Five villages declared 1,200 hectares of forest as a protected zone, banning hunting and rejecting outside encroachment.
1. **Sacred Groves:** Tribal communities like Mundas, Santhals, and Bishnoi villages protect specific trees, animals, and forest patches through religious traditions.
1. **Joint Forest Management (JFM):** Formally started in Odisha (1988), this programme involves local village institutions in managing degraded forests; in return, communities receive non-timber forest produce and a share of timber harvested.

Source: Chapter 2 – Community and Conservation

Explanation

- The examiner expects **specific named examples** – Chipko, Beej Bachao Andolan, Sariska, Bhairodev Dakav, JFM, Sacred Groves – each with a brief fact. Vague statements like "people protect forests" score no marks.
- Note that **demarcation of wildlife sanctuaries** does NOT involve community participation (MCQ hint from textbook).
- JFM's starting year (1988, Odisha) and the figure (1,200 hectares) are frequently asked details – include them.
- Keep each point to 1–2 lines; do not elaborate into paragraphs for a 5-mark answer.

Q36. deep exam-ready

[5]

Explain the classification of forests in India based on ownership and management. How are these categories distributed across different states, and what does this distribution tell us about conservation priorities?

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Model Answer

Classification of Forests in India by Ownership and Management

In India, most forest and wildlife resources are owned or managed by the government through the Forest Department. They are classified into three categories:

1. **Reserved Forests:** More than half of total forest land falls under this category. These are the most valuable for conservation of forest and wildlife resources.
1. **Protected Forests:** About one-third of total forest area is protected forest, declared by the Forest Department, and is protected from any further depletion.
1. **Unclassed Forests:** These are other forests and wastelands belonging to government, private individuals, or communities.

State-wise Distribution:

- Madhya Pradesh has the largest area under permanent forests (75% of its total forest area).
- J&K, Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Maharashtra have large percentages of **reserved forests**.
- Bihar, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, and Rajasthan have bulk of forests as **protected forests**.
- North-eastern states and parts of Gujarat have high percentages of **unclassed forests** managed by local communities.

Conservation Significance: This distribution shows that while central and peninsular India prioritises strict government-controlled conservation, northeastern communities play a vital role in managing forests locally, highlighting the need for both government regulation and community participation in conservation.

Source: *Types and Distribution of Forest and Wildlife Resources, Chapter 2*

Explanation

- Examiners expect all **three categories defined clearly** with correct proportions (half, one-third, rest).
- State examples are important — include at least Madhya Pradesh (75%) and the groupings for reserved/protected/unclassed.
- The final inference about conservation priorities is required for a 5-mark answer to show higher-order thinking (HOTS). Keep it to 1–2 lines.
- Use the exact language from the textbook for definitions — CBSE rewards precision.

Q37. deep exam-ready

[4]

Read the following information and answer the questions that follow:

In the 1970s, the Indian government recognised that certain animal species were on the verge of extinction. Among the most urgent cases was the tiger — once estimated at 55,000 in number, the population had crashed to 1,827 by 1973. The threats were multiple: poaching for skins and bones used in traditional medicines, shrinking forest habitats, depletion of prey species, and a rapidly growing human population encroaching on wildlife areas. India and Nepal, which together shelter about two-thirds of the world's surviving tiger population, became hotspots for illegal trade. In response, Project Tiger was launched in 1973, establishing several tiger reserves across the country from Uttarakhand in the north to Kerala in the south.

- (i) Why were India and Nepal specifically targeted by poachers in the illegal tiger trade? [1 mark]
 (ii) Apart from poaching, mention any two other threats responsible for the decline of tiger population. [1 mark]
 (iii) How does tiger conservation also serve a broader ecological purpose beyond saving the species itself? [2 marks]

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Model Answer

(i) India and Nepal were prime targets for poachers because they together provide habitat to about two-thirds of the world's surviving tiger population, making them the most concentrated source for illegal trade in tiger skins and bones.

(ii) Two other threats responsible for the decline of tiger population:

- Shrinking forest habitat
- Depletion of prey base species

(iii) Tiger conservation serves a broader ecological purpose because the tiger is a key species in the faunal web — protecting it means preserving large biotypes (ecosystems) of sizeable magnitude. When tiger habitats are secured, the entire biodiversity of that ecosystem — prey species, vegetation, water bodies, and soil — is also protected, maintaining ecological balance and life support systems.

Source: *Project Tiger; Conservation of Forest and Wildlife in India — Chapter 2*

Explanation

- **(i)** is a direct 1-mark retrieval — quote/paraphrase the passage's reason: two-thirds of world tiger population sheltered here.
- **(ii)** any two from: shrinking habitat, depletion of prey base, growing human population — pick the clearest two.
- **(iii)** examiners want TWO ideas: (a) tiger as a keystone/key species in the faunal web, and (b) conservation of biotypes/ecosystems, not just the species. Link tiger protection → habitat protection → broader biodiversity. Avoid vague statements; use textbook terms like *biotypes* and *faunal web*.

Q38. medium exam-ready

[4]

[case_study] Read the following information and answer the questions that follow:

India's forests are classified under three broad legal categories based on their ownership and management status. The most strictly protected category covers more than half of the total forest land and is managed directly by the government. A second category is protected from further depletion but allows some controlled use. The remaining forests, including wastelands owned by government, private individuals, or communities, form the third category. This classification system is administered primarily through the Forest Department. In recent decades, joint management models have emerged — notably the JFM programme formally launched in 1988 — which enable village institutions to restore degraded forest lands and share in the benefits of the forests they protect.

- (i) Name the three legal categories of forests in India in order from most to least strictly protected. [1 mark]
(ii) Which state has the largest area of forests under the permanent forest estate, constituting 75% of its total forest area? [1 mark]
(iii) What are the two benefits that communities receive for successfully protecting forests under the JFM programme? [2 marks]

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Model Answer

(i) The three legal categories of forests in India, from most to least strictly protected, are:

1. Reserved Forests
2. Protected Forests
3. Unclassed Forests

(ii) **Madhya Pradesh** has the largest area under permanent forests, constituting 75% of its total forest area.

(iii) Under the JFM programme, communities receive two benefits in return for successfully protecting forests:

1. **Non-timber forest produce** (intermediary benefits such as fruits, fodder, etc.)
2. **A share in the timber harvested** by successful protection.

Source: *Types and Distribution of Forest and Wildlife Resources; Community and Conservation — Chapter 2*

Explanation

- (i) Simply name the three categories in order — one line is enough for 1 mark. Don't define them unless asked.
- (ii) The answer is a single state name with the statistic; memorise Madhya Pradesh + 75%.
- (iii) The passage gives exactly two benefits ("non-timber forest produces and share in the timber harvested by 'successful protection'"). State both clearly — one mark each. Don't paraphrase vaguely; use the textbook terms.

Q39. deep exam-ready

[4]

Read the following information and answer the questions that follow:

Nature worship is an age-old tribal belief in India rooted in the idea that all creations of nature must be protected. Across different communities, this belief has taken varied forms — from worshipping specific trees to protecting entire forest patches called Sacred Groves, which are regarded as the forests of gods and goddesses. In the Bishnoi villages of Rajasthan, herds of blackbuck, chinkara, nilgai and peacocks roam freely and are considered part of the community. Nobody harms them. Similarly, in Sariska Tiger Reserve, local villagers cited the Wildlife Protection Act to fight against mining activities that threatened the reserve. The inhabitants of five villages in Alwar, Rajasthan, went further — they declared 1,200 hectares of forest as Bhairodev Dakav 'Sonchuri', enforcing their own rules against hunting and outside encroachment.

- (i) What are Sacred Groves and how are they created? [1 mark]
 (ii) How does the example of Bishnoi villages illustrate the concept of community-based wildlife conservation? [1 mark]
 (iii) Compare the approaches taken by the villagers of Sariska and the inhabitants of Alwar district to protect their forests and wildlife. In what way do both reflect community ownership of conservation? [2 marks]

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Model Answer

(i) Sacred Groves are patches of forest left completely untouched by local people, regarded as forests of gods and goddesses. They are created through tribal nature-worship beliefs, where communities ban any interference with these areas, preserving them in their natural form.

(ii) In Bishnoi villages, blackbuck, chinkara, nilgai and peacocks roam freely and are treated as part of the community. Nobody harms them. This shows how an entire community voluntarily protects wildlife through shared cultural beliefs, without any government enforcement.

(iii) Villagers of Sariska used the **Wildlife Protection Act** (legal means) to fight mining activities threatening the reserve. In contrast, the five villages of Alwar declared 1,200 hectares as **Bhairodev Dakav 'Sonchuri'**, making their own rules banning hunting and resisting outside encroachment — rejecting government involvement entirely. Both approaches reflect community ownership: Sariska villagers actively invoked the law to defend their wildlife, while Alwar villagers self-governed their forest. In both cases, local people took initiative to protect natural resources, placing the community at the centre of conservation.

Source: *Community and Conservation; Sacred Groves — Chapter 2*

Explanation

- **(i)** Focus on two things: what Sacred Groves are (pristine untouched forest patches) and how they are formed (through tribal/nature-worship beliefs).
- **(ii)** The keyword examiners look for is **community-based** — show how the whole community participates voluntarily through cultural/religious values.
- **(iii)** This is a 2-mark compare question — you must clearly state the **difference in approach** (law-based vs. self-rule) AND the **common thread** (community ownership/initiative). Use the textbook terms "Wildlife Protection Act" and "Bhairodev Dakav Sonchuri" for full marks.

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