

Course Title	:	ENVIORNMENTAL STUDIES
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Course Contents:

Unit 1: The Multidisciplinary nature of environmental studies

Definition, scope and importance, Need for public awareness.

Unit 2: Natural Resources

Renewable and non renewable resources:

- a) Natural resources and associated problems
 - Forest resources: Use and over-exploitation, deforestation, case studies, Timber extraction, mining, dams and their effects on forests and tribal people.
 - Water resources: Use and over-utilization of surface and ground water, floods, drought, conflicts over water, dam's benefits and problems.
 - Mineral Resources: Use and exploitation, environmental effects of extracting and using mineral resources, case studies.
 - Food Resources: World food problems, changes caused by agriculture and over grazing, effects of modern agriculture, fertilizers- pesticides problems, water logging, salinity, case studies.
 - Energy Resources: Growing energy needs, renewable and non-renewable energy sources, use of alternate energy sources, case studies
 - Land Resources: Land as a resource, land degradation, man induces land slides, soil erosion, and desertification.
- b) Role of individual in conservation of natural resources.
- c) Equitable use of resources for sustainable life styles.

Unit 3: Eco Systems

- Concept of an eco system
- Structure and function of an eco system.
- Producers, consumers, decomposers.
- Energy flow in the eco systems.
- Ecological succession.
- Food chains, food webs and ecological pyramids.
- Introduction, types, characteristic features, structure and function of the following eco systems:
- Forest ecosystem
- Grass land ecosystem
- Desert ecosystem.
- Aquatic eco systems (ponds, streams, lakes, rivers, oceans, estuaries)

UNIT 4: Biodiversity and it's Conservation

- Introduction-Definition: genetics, species and ecosystem diversity.
- Biogeographically classification of India.
- Value of biodiversity: consumptive use, productive use, social, ethical,

- aesthetic and option values
- Biodiversity at global, national and local level.
- India as a mega diversity nation.
- Hot-spots of biodiversity.
- Threats to biodiversity: habitats loss, poaching of wild life, man wildlife conflicts.
- Endangered and endemic spaces of India.
- Conservation of biodiversity: in-situ and ex-situ conservation of biodiversity.

UNIT 5: Environmental Pollution

Definition Causes, effects and control measures of:

- a. Air pollution
- b. Water pollution
- c. Soil pollution
- d. Marine pollution
- e. Noise pollution
- f. Thermal pollution
- g. Nuclear hazards

Solid waste Management: Causes, effects and control measures of urban and industrial wastes

Role of an individual in prevention of pollution

Pollution case studies

Disaster management: Floods, earth quake, cyclone and land slides

Unit 6: Social issues and the Environment

- Form unsustainable to sustainable development
- Urban problems related to energy
- Water conservation, rain water harvesting, water shed management
- Resettlement and rehabilitation of people; its problems and concerns, case studies
- Environmental ethics: issues and possible solutions
- Climate change, global warming, acid rain, ozone layer depletion, nuclear accidents and holocaust, case studies.
- Wasteland reclamation
- Consumerism and waste products
- Environment protection Act
- Air (prevention and control of pollution) Act
- Water (prevention and control of pollution) Act
- Wildlife protection act
- Forest conservation act
- Issues involved in enforcement of environmental legislations
- Public awareness

Unit 7: Human population and the environment

- Population growth and variation among nations
- Population explosion- family welfare program
- Environment and human health
- Human rights
- Value education
- HIV / AIDS
- Women and child welfare
- Role of information technology in environment and human health
- Case studies

Unit 8: Field work

Visit to a local area to document environment assets river / forest / grassland / hill / mountain. Visit to a local polluted site-urban/rural/industrial/agricultural. Study of common plants, insects, birds. Study of simple ecosystems-pond, river, hills lopes, etc (field work equal to 5 lecture works)

Recommended Books:

1. Textbook of Environmental studies, Erach Bharucha, UGC
2. Fundamental concepts in Environmental Studies, D D Mishra, S Chand & Co Ltd