



BHARATHIDASAN UNIVERSITY, TIRUCHIRAPPALLI- 620 024

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES – Syllabus (updated on 21.11.2016)

(Applicable to the candidates admitted from the Academic year 2016-17 onwards)

- Unit: 1** The Multidisciplinary nature of environmental studies
Definition, scope and importance. (2 lectures)
Need for public awareness
- Unit: 2** Natural Resources:
Renewable and non-renewable resources:
Natural resources and associated problems.
- a) Forest resources: use and over-exploitation, deforestation, case studies. Timber extraction, mining, dams and their effects on forests and tribal people.
 - b) Water resources: Use and over-utilization of surface and ground water, floods, drought, conflicts over water, dams benefits and problems.
 - c) Mineral resources: Use and exploitation, environmental effects of extracting and using mineral resources, case studies.
 - d) Food resources: World food problems, changes caused by agriculture and overgrazing, effects of modern agriculture, fertilizer-pesticide problems, water logging, salinity, case studies.
 - e) Energy resources: Growing energy needs, renewable and non renewable energy sources, use of alternate energy sources. Case studies.
 - f) Land resources: Land as a resources, land degradation, man induced Landslides, soil erosion and desertification.
- Role of an individual in conservation of natural resources.
 - Equitable use of resources for sustainable lifestyles.
- (8 lectures)
- Unit: 3** **Ecosystems**
- Concept of an ecosystem.
 - Structure and function of an ecosystem.
 - Producers, consumers and decomposers
 - Energy flow in the ecosystem
 - Ecological succession.
 - Food chains, food webs and ecological pyramids
 - Introduction, types, characteristic features, structure and function of the following ecosystem:-

- a. Forest ecosystem
- b. Grassland ecosystem
- c. Desert ecosystem
- d. Aquatic ecosystems, (ponds, streams, lakes, rivers, oceans, estuaries)

(6 lectures)

Unit: 4 Biodiversity and its conservation

- Introduction – Definition : Genetic, species and ecosystem diversity
- Biogeographical classification of India
- Value of biodiversity : consumptive use, productive use, social, ethical, aesthetic and option values
- Biodiversity at global, National and local levels
- India as a mega-diversity nation
- Hot-spots of biodiversity
- Threats to biodiversity : habitat loss, poaching of wildlife, man-wildlife conflicts.
- Endangered and endemic species of India
- Conservation of biodiversity: In-situ and Ex-situ conservation of biodiversity.

(8 lectures)

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, earthquake, cyclone and landslides.
 - Ill-Effects of Fireworks: Firework and Celebrations, Health Hazards, Types of Fire, Firework and Safety

Unit: 6 Social Issues and the Environment

- From Unsustainable to Sustainable development.
 - Urban problems related to energy.
 - Water conservation, rain water harvesting, watershed management.
 - Resettlement and rehabilitation of people; its problems and concerns.
- 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 legislation
 - Public awareness.

(7 lectures)

Unit: 7 Human Population and the Environment

- Population growth, variation among nations.
- Population explosion – Family Welfare Programmes
- 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 environmental assets-river / forest/ grassland/ hill / mountain

References:

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(M) Magazine (R) Reference (TB) Textbook
