Board's Questions and Answers for "Wow"

4 Questions – 2 Marks Each (Very Short Answer Type)

1. **What do you understand by a 'Resource'? Give one example.** *(2015)*
   Answer: Anything available in our environment that can be used to satisfy human needs, provided it is technologically accessible, economically feasible, and culturally acceptable.
   Example: Minerals, forests, fossil fuels, etc. PW StoreLearn CBSE

2. **"Resources are a function of human activities." Justify.** *(Practical/philosophical)*
   Answer: A natural element becomes a resource only when humans recognize its utility, develop technology, and invest effort to make it usable. This shows that human creativity and activity assign value to elements of nature. Learn CBSE

3. **Name two types of soils and the states where they are predominantly found.** *(NCERT style)*
   Answer:

- Black soil – Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh (cultivated mainly for cotton). BYJU'S

4. **Why is over-irrigation a cause of land degradation?** *(NCERT MCQ context)*
   Answer: It causes waterlogging and salinization of soil, which deteriorates land fertility. Although not directly from MCQ answers, this matches widely taught CBSE concepts and NCERT framework. BYJU'S

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2 Questions – 5 Marks Each (Long Answer Type)

5. **Explain the classification of resources based on exhaustibility and ownership.** *(5 marks theory)*
   Answer:

   - **Exhaustibility:**

     - *Renewable*: can be regenerated (e.g. solar energy)

     - *Non-renewable*: finite and depletable (e.g. minerals, fossil fuels)

   - **Ownership:**

     - *Individual*: owned by individuals (e.g. personal land)

     - *Community*: accessible to community members (e.g. village grazing land)

     - *National*: state-level resources (e.g. forests)

     - *International*: shared globally (e.g. Antarctica, oceans) BYJU'S

6. **Describe two major measures to conserve land resources.** *(5 marks application)*
   Answer:

   - **Terrace cultivation**: Sloping land turned into terraces to reduce runoff and soil erosion. Common in mountainous regions like Uttarakhand. BYJU'S

   - **Soil conservation techniques**: Include afforestation, contour ploughing, maintaining vegetative cover, and crop rotation to preserve soil fertility and reduce degradation. These are standard conservation strategies emphasized in NCERT geography.

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2 Case-Based Questions – 4 Marks Each

7. **Case:** A region experiences frequent soil erosion due to heavy monsoon rains.
   Q: What practical steps can be taken to reduce erosion and sustain agriculture? *(4 marks)*
   Answer:

   - Establish *contour bunding* and *check dams* to slow water flow.

   - Use *terrace farming* to break slope gradient.

   - Plant *cover crops* and *trees* to protect soil.

   - Practice *crop rotation* to maintain soil health.
     These measures cumulatively minimize erosion and improve long-term agricultural productivity.

8. **Case:** A mineral-rich state extracts limestone for cement, but faces land degradation.
   Q: Identify the cause and suggest a solution. *(4 marks)*
   Answer:

   - **Cause:** Dust from grinding and quarrying reduces soil infiltration and damages nearby land. Scribd

   - **Solution:** Use dust suppression systems (like water sprinkling), reforest mined areas, and enforce regulations for sustainable mining.

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2 Assertion & Reason (A&R) – 2 Marks (1 Mark Each)

9. **Assertion (A):** Oregon is non-renewable because once depleted it cannot be naturally restored.
   Reason (R): Non-renewable resources are formed over millions of years.
   Answer: A = True; R = True; R explains A. *(1+1 mark)*

10. **Assertion (A):** Terrace farming is practiced in hilly regions.
    Reason (R): It prevents soil erosion and conserves water.
    Answer: A = True; R = True; R explains A. *(1+1 mark)*

◆ 2-Mark Questions (4)

Q1. Define *palar pani*. What is its significance in arid Rajasthan?
(CBSE 2012)

Answer: *Palar pani* refers to rainwater stored in underground tanks. It is considered the purest form of drinking water in arid Rajasthan, vital during summers when other sources dry up.

Q2. Why is rooftop rainwater harvesting important in Rajasthan?
(CBSE 2013)
Answer: Because rainfall is scarce and rivers are few, rooftop harvesting ensures reliable drinking water supply. Stored water in *tankas* is pure, cool, and available during dry periods.

Q3. What is bamboo drip irrigation and where is it practiced?
(CBSE 2024)
Answer: A traditional method in Meghalaya where bamboo pipes carry water from streams to fields. It delivers water drop by drop directly to roots, conserving water.

Q4. Define water scarcity. Give two causes.
(CBSE 2014)
Answer: When water availability is insufficient to meet demand. Causes: over-exploitation of groundwater, uneven distribution of rainfall, pollution.

◆ 5-Mark Questions (2)

Q5. Water is available in abundance in India, yet scarcity persists. Explain.
(CBSE 2013)
Answer:

- **Spatial variation:** Some states (e.g., Meghalaya) get very high rainfall, while Rajasthan is arid.

- **Seasonal variation:** Monsoons are concentrated in 4 months; rest of year faces shortages.

- **Over-exploitation:** Groundwater used excessively for irrigation & urban needs.

- **Pollution:** Industrial & agricultural wastes degrade water quality.

- **Growing demand:** Population growth, industries, urbanization create stress.
   Thus, despite abundant rainfall, poor management and uneven distribution cause scarcity.

Q6. Explain the working of underground tankas in Rajasthan.
(CBSE 2016, 2015, 2012)
Answer:

- Houses had sloping roofs connected to pipes that led rainwater into underground *tankas*.

- Stored water was filtered through sand/stone and remained clean & cool.

- It provided drinking water during dry months when other sources dried up.

- Many homes also built adjacent cool rooms using these *tankas*.
  This system ensured year-round water security in arid zones.

◆ Case-Based Questions (4 Marks Each)

Q7. *Case:* Rapid urbanisation is causing water shortages in cities. Groundwater levels are falling rapidly.
(CBSE Sample Paper 2020, Trend Q)
Q: Identify the issues and suggest solutions.
Answer:

- **Issues:** Over-extraction of groundwater, contamination from industries, unequal access.

- **Solutions:** Rooftop harvesting, regulating extraction, recycling wastewater, constructing check-dams.

Q8. *Case:* Construction of multipurpose dams has led to opposition from local communities.
(CBSE 2012, 2014)
Q: Explain reasons for opposition with examples.
Answer:

- Large dams displace people, submerge forests, and affect livelihoods.

- Environmental damage (soil fertility reduction, silting).

- Example: *Narmada Bachao Andolan* protested against displacement due to Sardar Sarovar Dam.
  Thus, dams, though beneficial, create major social/environmental costs.

◆ Assertion & Reason (2 × 1 Mark Each)

Q9.
Assertion (A): Groundwater is being overused in many parts of India.
Reason (R): Farmers have easy access to tube-wells and pumps.
(CBSE 2015)

- A = True; R = True; R correctly explains A ✅

Q10.
Assertion (A): Bamboo drip irrigation is one of the most efficient systems.
Reason (R): It minimizes water wastage by directly supplying water at the roots.
(CBSE 2024)

- A = True; R = True; R correctly explains A ✅

◆ 2-Mark Questions (4)

Q1. What is biodiversity? Why is it important?
(CBSE 2013)
Answer: Biodiversity is the variety of plants, animals, and microorganisms in an area. It maintains ecological balance, provides resources, and ensures survival of ecosystems.

Q2. Define endemic species with one example.
(CBSE 2012)
Answer: Species found only in a particular region and nowhere else. Example: Nicobar pigeon (Nicobar Islands).

Q3. What is deforestation? Give two causes.
(CBSE 2014)
Answer: Permanent removal of forest cover for non-forest use. Causes: (i) Agricultural expansion (shifting cultivation, cash crops), (ii) Infrastructure development like dams, mining.

Q4. State two features of Joint Forest Management (JFM).
(CBSE 2015)
Answer:

1. Involves local communities in forest protection and management.

2. Communities get benefits (timber, fuelwood) in return for protecting forests.

◆ 5-Mark Questions (2)

Q5. Explain any five steps taken by the Indian government to conserve forests and wildlife. *(CBSE 2013, 2015)*
Answer:

1. **Wildlife Protection Act (1972):** Protects species, habitats, and bans hunting.

2. **Biosphere Reserves:** Created to protect biodiversity (e.g., Nilgiri, Sundarbans).

3. **National Parks & Sanctuaries:** Habitat protection (e.g., Jim Corbett, Kaziranga).

4. **Project Tiger (1973):** To save Bengal tigers from extinction.

5. **Joint Forest Management (1980s):** Local communities + Forest Dept. collaboration.

Q6. Explain the role of community movements in conserving forests. Give examples. *(CBSE 2014)*
Answer:

- *Chipko Movement (1970s, Garhwal):* Villagers hugged trees to prevent cutting by contractors.

- *Appiko Movement (Karnataka, 1983):* People protested felling and promoted afforestation.

- Bishnoi community in Rajasthan protect blackbuck, nilgai, and sacred groves.
  👉 These people-led movements raised awareness, stopped deforestation, and promoted sustainable use.

◆ Case-Based Questions (4 Marks Each)

Q7. *Case:* A survey shows decline in biodiversity due to mining and urbanisation. *(CBSE 2014)*

Q: Identify reasons for biodiversity loss and suggest remedies.
Answer:

- **Reasons:** Deforestation, overgrazing, mining, monoculture plantations, poaching.

- **Remedies:** Afforestation, strict anti-poaching laws, creating sanctuaries/reserves, promoting eco-friendly development.

Q8. *Case:* Villagers in Odisha protect forests by patrolling and regulating use of resources.
(CBSE 2015)
Q: What does this case show about the role of communities?
Answer:

- Communities act as guardians of forests.

- They regulate grazing, timber collection, and encourage regeneration.

- Example: JFM in Odisha where villages share responsibility with Forest Dept.

- Ensures both livelihood and biodiversity conservation.

◆ Assertion & Reason (2 × 1 Mark Each)

Q9.
Assertion (A): Biodiversity is under severe threat in India.
Reason (R): Industrialisation and habitat destruction are major causes.
(CBSE 2015)

- A = True; R = True; R explains A ✅

Q10.
Assertion (A): Chipko movement was a community initiative for conservation.
Reason (R): It was led mainly by industrialists to increase timber production.
(CBSE 2014)

- A = True; R = False ❌

◆ 2-Mark Questions (4)

Q1. What is sexual division of labour?
(CBSE 2013)
Answer: A system where women are assigned household and care work, while men are assigned paid and public work. Women's unpaid household labour is undervalued.

Q2. Why is women's political representation still low in India?
(CBSE 2014)
Answer: Despite equal voting rights, women constitute only about 10% in Lok Sabha due to patriarchal norms, lack of political will, and male domination in parties.

Q3. State two positive impacts of caste in Indian politics.
(CBSE 2012)
Answer:

1. Ensures political parties address caste issues, giving voice to marginalized groups.

2. Helps in mobilising disadvantaged communities for greater representation.

Q4. How can religion influence politics in a healthy way?
(CBSE 2015)
Answer: By promoting moral values, tolerance, and justice in governance while respecting secular principles and equal treatment of all faiths.

◆ 5-Mark Questions (2)

Q5. "Gender division is not based on biology but on social expectations." Explain with examples.
(CBSE 2013, 2015)
Answer:

- Boys and girls are assigned roles by society, not nature.

- Women are seen as responsible for domestic chores; men for earning.

- In reality, women also work outside but their work is underpaid/unrecognized.

- Example: Female literacy rate lower than male, but girls often perform better academically.
  👉 Gender division is socially constructed, not natural.

Q6. "Caste system is weakening in India, yet casteism continues." Explain.
(CBSE 2014)
Answer:

- **Weakening:** Due to urbanisation, economic growth, literacy, inter-caste marriages.

- **Continuing:** Politics still mobilises caste groups, economic inequality persists among SCs/STs/OBCs.

- **Example:** Reservation policies show caste relevance in education/jobs.
  Thus, caste has lost rigidity but still influences politics and society.

◆ Case-Based Questions (4 Marks Each)

Q7. *Case:* Despite constitutional provisions, women's participation in politics remains low.
(CBSE 2014)
Q: Identify challenges and suggest remedies.
Answer:

- **Challenges:** Patriarchy, lack of political opportunities, party reluctance.

- **Remedies:** Reservation for women in legislatures, awareness, empowerment through education.

- Example: Panchayati Raj – 1/3rd seats reserved for women.

Q8. *Case:* In elections, candidates often appeal to caste and religious identities.
(CBSE 2012, 2015)
Q: Is this good for democracy? Why/why not?
Answer:

- **Negative:** Can create social divisions, communal tension, and violence.

- **Positive (limited):** Brings forward concerns of marginalized castes/religions.
  👉 But over-dependence harms secularism and democratic equality.

◆ Assertion & Reason (2 × 1 Mark Each)

Q9.
Assertion (A): Political expression of caste can be healthy for democracy.
Reason (R): It ensures that disadvantaged groups get a voice in politics.
(CBSE 2015)

- A = True; R = True; R explains A ✅

Q10.
Assertion (A): Religion can never be involved in politics.
Reason (R): Because India is a secular country.
(CBSE 2014)

- A = False; R = True ❌
  (Secularism means equal respect to all religions, not exclusion of religion from politics.)

◆ 2-Mark Questions (4)

Q1. Define power sharing.
(CBSE 2013)
Answer: Power sharing means distributing power among different organs of government and social groups to avoid concentration of power and ensure stability.

Q2. Why is power sharing desirable in a democracy?
(CBSE 2014)
Answer:

1. It reduces chances of conflict between social groups.

2. It ensures political stability by accommodating diverse interests.

Q3. Mention two features of the Belgium model of power sharing.
(CBSE 2012)
Answer:

1. Equal representation of Dutch and French communities in central government.

2. Separate government in Brussels with equal powers for both communities.

Q4. Give one difference between horizontal and vertical power sharing.
(CBSE 2015)
Answer:

- **Horizontal:** Power shared among Legislature, Executive, Judiciary.

- **Vertical:** Power shared among Union, State, and Local governments.

◆ 5-Mark Questions (2)

Q5. Explain the power sharing arrangement in Belgium.
(CBSE 2012, 2014)
Answer:

- Central govt: Equal ministers from Dutch & French communities.

- State govt: Separate govts for regions.

- Brussels govt: Equal representation for Dutch & French.

- Community govt: Powers on culture, language, education.
  👉 This avoided domination of one group and maintained unity.

Q6. Compare the situation of Belgium with Sri Lanka. What lessons can be learnt?
(CBSE 2013, 2015)
Answer:

- **Belgium:** Adopted inclusive policies → equal power sharing → peace.

- **Sri Lanka:** Adopted majoritarianism (Sinhala dominance) → led to civil war.
  Lesson: Accommodating diversity through power sharing ensures stability;

majoritarianism leads to conflict.

◆ Case-Based Questions (4 Marks Each)

Q7. *Case:* In Sri Lanka, Sinhala-majority govt adopted policies favouring Sinhalese only.
(CBSE 2015)
Q: What were its consequences?
Answer:

- Tamils felt alienated and discriminated.

- Demand for Tamil autonomy increased.

- Led to civil war and political instability.
  👉 Majoritarianism proved harmful for national unity.

Q8. *Case:* India has adopted both horizontal and vertical power sharing.
(CBSE 2014)
Q: Explain with examples.
Answer:

- **Horizontal:** Legislature, Executive, Judiciary share power → checks & balances.

- **Vertical:** Union govt, State govt, and Panchayati Raj → division of power.
  👉 Ensures both decentralisation and democracy.

◆ Assertion & Reason (2 × 1 Mark Each)

Q9.
Assertion (A): Power sharing is essential for political stability.
Reason (R): It reduces social conflict and ensures unity.
(CBSE 2014)

- A = True; R = True; R explains A ✅

Q10.
Assertion (A): In Belgium, only the Dutch community enjoyed power.
Reason (R): The French community was denied representation.
(CBSE 2012)

- A = False; R = False ❌
  (Belgium gave equal power to both communities.)

◆ 2-Mark Questions (4)

Q1. Who was Frederic Sorrieu? What was his vision of democracy?
(CBSE 2012)
Answer: Frederic Sorrieu was a French artist who prepared a series of four prints in 1848. His vision was of democratic and socially just nations, with people marching towards liberty.

Q2. Who was Giuseppe Mazzini? What was his contribution?
(CBSE 2013)
Answer: An Italian revolutionary, founder of *Young Italy* and *Young Europe*. He inspired youth to fight for a unified Italy and spread nationalist ideas across Europe.

Q3. Define liberal nationalism.
(CBSE 2014)
Answer: A form of nationalism in early 19th-century Europe which emphasized freedom of individuals, equality before law, government by consent, free markets, and freedom of press.

Q4. Who hosted the Congress of Vienna in 1815? What was its main decision?
(CBSE 2015)
Answer: Hosted by Austrian Chancellor Metternich. Main decision: Restoration of monarchies and establishment of conservative order in Europe after Napoleon's defeat.

◆ 5-Mark Questions (2)

Q5. Describe the unification of Germany.
(CBSE 2013, 2015)
Answer:

- After 1848 revolutions failed, Prussia took leadership.

- Chancellor Otto von Bismarck used policy of "blood and iron."

- Series of wars: Denmark (1864), Austria (1866), France (1870–71).

- Victory against France → proclamation of Kaiser William I at Versailles (1871).
  👉 Unified Germany under Prussian monarchy.

Q6. Describe the process of unification of Italy.
(CBSE 2014)
Answer:

- Italy divided into many states, dominated by Austria and Bourbon kings.

- **Mazzini:** inspired nationalist spirit.

- **Cavour (Prime Minister of Sardinia-Piedmont):** diplomacy + alliance with France.

- War with Austria (1859) → northern states joined.

- **Garibaldi:** led volunteers ("Red Shirts") → liberated southern Italy.

- 1861: Victor Emmanuel II declared King of United Italy; 1870: Rome joined.

🔹 Case-Based Questions (4 Marks Each)

Q7. *Case:* "Nationalism in the 19th century Europe was closely allied to liberalism."
(CBSE 2014)
Q: Explain with examples.
Answer:

- Liberals opposed monarchy and promoted constitutional government.

- Supported freedom of press, free markets, equality before law.

- Example: Zollverein (customs union) in German states (1834) promoted trade unity.
  👉 Thus, liberalism gave economic + political shape to nationalism.

Q8. *Case:* The Treaty of Vienna (1815) brought peace but sowed seeds of discontent.
(CBSE 2012)
Q: Explain.
Answer:

- Restored monarchies (Bourbons in France).

- Established balance of power favouring conservatives.

- Neglected aspirations of liberal nationalists.

- Led to revolts in 1830 & 1848 across Europe.
  👉 It restored order but suppressed nationalism temporarily.

🔹 **Assertion & Reason (2 × 1 Mark Each)**

Q9.
Assertion (A): Giuseppe Garibaldi played a vital role in the unification of Italy.
Reason (R): He led the "Red Shirts" movement in southern Italy.
(CBSE 2015)

- A = True; R = True; R explains A ✅

Q10.
Assertion (A): Nationalist movements in Europe were purely democratic in nature.
Reason (R): They promoted equality and fraternity among all social groups.
(CBSE 2014)

- A = False; R = False ❌
  (Many movements were dominated by elites and excluded women/poor.)