Excercise:

Question 1. Which of the following groups contain only biodegradable items?
(a) Grass, flowers and leather
(b) Grass, wood and plastic
(c) Fruit-peels, cake and lime-juice
(d) Cake, wood and grass

Answer: (c) Fruit-peels, cake and lime-juice and (d) Cake, wood and grass

Question 2. Which of the following constitute a food-chain?
(a) Grass, wheat and mango
(b) Grass, goat and human
(c) Goat, cow and elephant
(d) Grass, fish and goat

Answer: (b) Grass, goat and human

Question 3. Which of the following are environment-friendly practices?
(a) Carrying cloth-bags to put purchases in while shopping
(b) Switching off unnecessary lights and fans
(c) Walking to school instead of getting your mother to drop you on her scooter
(d) All of the above

Answer: (d) All of the above

Question 4. What will happen if we kill all the organisms in one trophic level?
Answer: If we kill all the organisms in one trophic level, then transfer of energy as well as matter to next higher level will stop. It will lead to over- population at one particular level causing amongst the individuals. This would seriously disturb the food chain and can cause the collapse of an ecosystem even.

Question 5. Will the impact of removing all the organisms in a trophic level be different for different trophic levels? Can the organisms of any trophic level be removed without causing any damage to the ecosystem?
Answer: Yes, the impact Of removing all the Organisms in a trophic level will be different for different trophic levels. It will not be possible to remove any organism in any trophic level without causing damage to the ecosystem.

Question 6. What is biological magnification? Will the levels of this magnification be different at different levels of the ecosystem?
Answer: The accumulation of harmful chemicals in the body of living organisms at different trophic levels in a food chain is called biological magnification. Yes, the concentration of these harmful chemicals will be different at different trophic levels. It will be maximum at the last trophic levels which is mostly of the top carnivores (quaternary consumers).

Question 7. What are the problems caused by the non-

biodegradable wastes that we generate?
Answer: (i) Non-biodegradable wastes persist in the environment for a long time and cause greater harm to the various members of the ecosystem by causing biological magnification.
(ii) Non-biodegradable waste such as fertilizers, pesticides, weedicides, etc., changes the soil chemistry. in turn affects the fertility of soil and subsequently reduces the crop yield.

Question 8. If all the waste we generate is biodegradable, will this have no impact on the environment?
Answer: Biodegradable waste will be recycled easily by the decomposers such as bacteria and fungi. It will have only this bad impact on our environment that, many Of the gases released during decomposition process may result in global warming.

Question 9. Why is damage to the ozone layer a cause for concern? What steps are being taken to limit this damage?
Answer: The ozone shields the surface of the earth from ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun. These radiations are highly damaging as they can cause cancer in both plants and animals, damage to eyes and immune system. They can also lead to variations in global rainfall, ecological disturbances and dwindling of global food supplies. Due to these reasons, damage to the ozone layer is a major cause for concern.
Steps which are taken to limit this damage :

1. To decrease the use of synthetic chemicals like chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) which are used as refrigerants and in fire extinguishers.
2. In 1987, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) succeeded in reaching an agreement to freeze CFC production at 1986

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