**CHAPTER 3**

**SYNTHETIC FIBRES AND PLASTICS**

**Answer the following**

1. What are polymers? What do you mean by polymerization?

Ans. Polymers are huge molecules consisting of long chains made from thousands of similar small molecules called monomers.

The process by which monomers are linked together to form polymers is called polymerization.

2. Give two examples for natural polymers and synthetic polymers.

Ans. Natural polymers- cotton and silk.

Synthetic polymers- Rayon and Nylon

3.Which fibre is known as artificial silk? Why?

Ans. Rayon is called artificial silk because itis cheaper than silk and can be woven like silk fibres.

4. Why is rayon called a regenerated fibre?

Ans. Rayon is called a regenerated fibre because the original raw material, cellulose, is broken down and then reformed.

5. How is rayon made?

Ans. Rayon is made from wood pulp. Wood pulp is first dissolved in an alkaline solution. The thick liquid produced is then passed through tiny holes to make fibres. The fibres are hardened by passing them to a bath of sulphuric acid. The fibres are then spun into yarn and woven into cloth.

6. List two properties and uses of rayon?

Ans. Rayon is a strong and easy to dye fibre.

The uses of rayon are,

* It is used to make apparel, such as suits, ties, blouses, jackets, stockings, slacks, sportswear etc.
* Home furnishings such as bedspreads, bedsheets, blankets, curtains, table cloths, upholstery, carpets, etc., are made from rayon, as it has a silky lustre.