

SSC GD Constable Exam: Environmental Studies Practice Set **(General Knowledge & General Awareness)**

Instructions:

- This practice set contains 100 multiple-choice questions (MCQs) on Environmental Studies.
- Questions cover key topics from the SSC GD syllabus, including ecosystems, biodiversity, pollution, conservation, climate change, and environmental policies.
- Answers are provided with explanations for clarity.

Section 1: Ecosystems and Biodiversity (Questions 1–25)

1. An ecosystem includes:

- A) Only living organisms
- B) Only non-living components
- C) Both living and non-living components
- D) Only plants

Answer: C

Explanation: An ecosystem comprises biotic (living) and abiotic (non-living) components interacting together.

2. The primary source of energy for Earth's ecosystems is:

- A) Wind
- B) Sun
- C) Water
- D) Soil

Answer: B

Explanation: The Sun provides energy for ecosystems through photosynthesis in plants.

3. Which of the following is a biotic component of an ecosystem?

- A) Water
- B) Air
- C) Plants
- D) Soil

Answer: C

Explanation: Plants are living organisms, making them a biotic component of an ecosystem.

4. The term "biodiversity" refers to:

- A) Variety of ecosystems only

- B) Variety of species in an ecosystem
- C) Variety of climates
- D) Variety of minerals

Answer: B

Explanation: Biodiversity is the variety of living species, including plants, animals, and microorganisms, in an ecosystem.

5. Which of the following is an example of a terrestrial ecosystem?

- A) Pond
- B) Forest
- C) Ocean
- D) River

Answer: B

Explanation: Forests are terrestrial (land-based) ecosystems, while ponds, oceans, and rivers are aquatic.

6. The role of an organism in its ecosystem is called its:

- A) Habitat
- B) Niche
- C) Biome
- D) Community

Answer: B

Explanation: A niche is the role or function of an organism within its ecosystem, including how it interacts with resources.

7. Which gas is essential for photosynthesis?

- A) Oxygen
- B) Nitrogen
- C) Carbon dioxide
- D) Hydrogen

Answer: C

Explanation: Plants use carbon dioxide, water, and sunlight to produce glucose and oxygen during photosynthesis.

8. The "Red Data Book" is related to:

- A) Endangered species
- B) Weather patterns
- C) Mineral resources

D) Agricultural crops

Answer: A

Explanation: The Red Data Book, published by IUCN, lists endangered and threatened species.

9. Which of the following is a renewable resource?

A) Coal

B) Solar energy

C) Petroleum

D) Natural gas

Answer: B

Explanation: Solar energy is renewable as it is derived from the Sun, an inexhaustible source.

10. The largest ecosystem on Earth is:

A) Forest

B) Ocean

C) Desert

D) Grassland

Answer: B

Explanation: Oceans cover about 71% of Earth's surface, making them the largest ecosystem.

11. Which animal is an indicator of a healthy aquatic ecosystem?

A) Crocodile

B) Frog

C) Shark

D) Whale

Answer: B

Explanation: Frogs are sensitive to environmental changes, making them indicators of aquatic ecosystem health.

12. The term "food chain" refers to:

A) Transfer of energy through organisms

B) Transfer of water in ecosystems

C) Transfer of soil nutrients

D) Transfer of minerals

Answer: A

Explanation: A food chain shows the transfer of energy from one organism to another through feeding.

13. Decomposers in an ecosystem are:

- A) Plants
- B) Animals
- C) Fungi and bacteria
- D) Algae

Answer: C

Explanation: Fungi and bacteria break down dead organic matter, recycling nutrients in ecosystems.

14. Which biome is characterized by low rainfall and extreme temperatures?

- A) Tundra
- B) Desert
- C) Rainforest
- D) Grassland

Answer: B

Explanation: Deserts have low rainfall and extreme temperature variations between day and night.

15. The term “endemic species” refers to species:

- A) Found in multiple regions
- B) Found only in a specific region
- C) Extinct species
- D) Migratory species

Answer: B

Explanation: Endemic species are native and restricted to a specific geographical area.

16. Which of the following is a producer in an ecosystem?

- A) Tiger
- B) Deer
- C) Green plant
- D) Vulture

Answer: C

Explanation: Green plants produce food through photosynthesis, making them producers.

17. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) was established in:

- A) 1948
- B) 1958
- C) 1968

D) 1978

Answer: A

Explanation: The IUCN, founded in 1948, works to conserve biodiversity globally.

18. Which gas is released by plants during photosynthesis?

A) Carbon dioxide

B) Oxygen

C) Nitrogen

D) Methane

Answer: B

Explanation: Oxygen is a byproduct of photosynthesis, released by plants into the atmosphere.

19. The term “trophic level” refers to:

A) Levels of water in ecosystems

B) Levels of energy transfer in a food chain

C) Levels of soil fertility

D) Levels of pollution

Answer: B

Explanation: Trophic levels represent stages of energy transfer in a food chain, e.g., producers, consumers.

20. Which of the following is an example of a non-renewable resource?

A) Wind energy

B) Coal

C) Solar energy

D) Biomass

Answer: B

Explanation: Coal is a finite resource, making it non-renewable, unlike wind or solar energy.

21. The term “biosphere” refers to:

A) The atmosphere only

B) All living organisms and their environment

C) The oceans only

D) The soil layer

Answer: B

Explanation: The biosphere includes all living organisms and their interactions with the environment.

22. Which animal is a keystone species in coral reef ecosystems?

- A) Shark
- B) Parrotfish
- C) Whale
- D) Dolphin

Answer: B

Explanation: Parrotfish maintain coral reefs by eating algae, making them a keystone species.

23. The process of excessive nutrient enrichment in water bodies is called:

- A) Eutrophication
- B) Desertification
- C) Deforestation
- D) Erosion

Answer: A

Explanation: Eutrophication leads to algal blooms and oxygen depletion in water bodies.

24. Which of the following is a biodiversity hotspot in India?

- A) Western Ghats
- B) Thar Desert
- C) Gangetic Plains
- D) Deccan Plateau

Answer: A

Explanation: The Western Ghats is a biodiversity hotspot due to its rich variety of species.

25. The main source of oxygen in the atmosphere is:

- A) Animals
- B) Plants
- C) Oceans
- D) Soil

Answer: B

Explanation: Plants release oxygen through photosynthesis, a primary source for the atmosphere.

Section 2: Pollution and Its Effects (Questions 26–50)

26. The primary cause of air pollution is:

- A) Volcanic eruptions

- B) Vehicle emissions
- C) Rainfall
- D) Wind

Answer: B

Explanation: Vehicle emissions release pollutants like carbon monoxide and particulate matter into the air.

27. The gas primarily responsible for the greenhouse effect is:

- A) Oxygen
- B) Nitrogen
- C) Carbon dioxide
- D) Argon

Answer: C

Explanation: Carbon dioxide traps heat in the atmosphere, contributing to the greenhouse effect.

28. Acid rain is caused by:

- A) Carbon monoxide
- B) Sulfur dioxide
- C) Oxygen
- D) Nitrogen

Answer: B

Explanation: Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) reacts with water vapor to form sulfuric acid, causing acid rain.

29. The main source of water pollution is:

- A) Rainwater
- B) Industrial waste
- C) Natural springs
- D) Glacier melt

Answer: B

Explanation: Industrial waste, including chemicals and effluents, is a major water pollutant.

30. The ozone layer protects Earth from:

- A) Ultraviolet rays
- B) Infrared rays
- C) X-rays
- D) Gamma rays

Answer: A

Explanation: The ozone layer absorbs harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays from the Sun.

31. The primary source of soil pollution is:

- A) Rainfall
- B) Pesticides
- C) Wind
- D) Sunlight

Answer: B

Explanation: Pesticides and chemical fertilizers contaminate soil, affecting its fertility.

32. The term “smog” is a combination of:

- A) Smoke and fog
- B) Smoke and dust
- C) Smoke and rain
- D) Smoke and wind

Answer: A

Explanation: Smog is a mixture of smoke and fog, causing poor air quality in urban areas.

33. Which pollutant is responsible for ozone layer depletion?

- A) Carbon dioxide
- B) Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)
- C) Nitrogen oxide
- D) Sulfur dioxide

Answer: B

Explanation: CFCs, used in refrigerants, deplete the ozone layer by breaking down ozone molecules.

34. The main health effect of air pollution is:

- A) Digestive disorders
- B) Respiratory problems
- C) Vision impairment
- D) Hearing loss

Answer: B

Explanation: Air pollution causes respiratory issues like asthma and bronchitis.

35. Which of the following is a biodegradable waste?

- A) Plastic

- B) Glass
- C) Vegetable peels
- D) Aluminum cans

Answer: C

Explanation: Vegetable peels decompose naturally, making them biodegradable.

36. The main cause of thermal pollution is:

- A) Deforestation
- B) Industrial cooling processes
- C) Soil erosion
- D) Wind energy

Answer: B

Explanation: Industrial cooling processes release heated water into water bodies, causing thermal pollution.

37. The term “bioaccumulation” refers to:

- A) Growth of plants
- B) Accumulation of toxins in organisms
- C) Decomposition of waste
- D) Recycling of materials

Answer: B

Explanation: Bioaccumulation is the buildup of toxic substances in an organism’s tissues.

38. Which gas contributes to global warming?

- A) Oxygen
- B) Methane
- C) Nitrogen
- D) Helium

Answer: B

Explanation: Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, contributing to global warming.

39. The primary source of noise pollution is:

- A) Rainfall
- B) Vehicles and industries
- C) Natural disasters
- D) Solar radiation

Answer: B

Explanation: Vehicles, industries, and construction are major sources of noise pollution.

40. The “Montreal Protocol” is related to:

- A) Climate change
- B) Ozone depletion
- C) Biodiversity
- D) Deforestation

Answer: B

Explanation: The Montreal Protocol (1987) aims to phase out ozone-depleting substances like CFCs.

41. The main effect of water pollution on aquatic life is:

- A) Increased growth
- B) Oxygen depletion
- C) Improved reproduction
- D) Enhanced food supply

Answer: B

Explanation: Water pollution reduces oxygen levels, harming aquatic organisms.

42. Which of the following is a non-biodegradable waste?

- A) Paper
- B) Food waste
- C) Plastic
- D) Wood

Answer: C

Explanation: Plastic does not decompose naturally, making it non-biodegradable.

43. The term “greenhouse effect” refers to:

- A) Cooling of Earth
- B) Trapping of heat in the atmosphere
- C) Reduction of oxygen
- D) Increase in rainfall

Answer: B

Explanation: The greenhouse effect traps heat in the atmosphere, leading to global warming.

44. The main source of radioactive pollution is:

- A) Nuclear power plants
- B) Solar panels
- C) Wind turbines

D) Hydroelectric dams

Answer: A

Explanation: Nuclear power plants produce radioactive waste, causing radioactive pollution.

45. The “Bhopal Gas Tragedy” was caused by the leakage of:

A) Carbon dioxide

B) Methyl isocyanate

C) Sulfur dioxide

D) Nitrogen oxide

Answer: B

Explanation: The Bhopal Gas Tragedy (1984) involved a leak of methyl isocyanate gas.

46. The primary source of marine pollution is:

A) Oil spills

B) Rainfall

C) Natural currents

D) Sea breeze

Answer: A

Explanation: Oil spills from ships and industries are a major cause of marine pollution.

47. The “Stockholm Convention” is related to:

A) Climate change

B) Persistent organic pollutants

C) Ozone depletion

D) Biodiversity

Answer: B

Explanation: The Stockholm Convention (2001) aims to eliminate persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

48. The main health effect of water pollution is:

A) Skin allergies

B) Waterborne diseases

C) Hearing loss

D) Vision problems

Answer: B

Explanation: Water pollution causes diseases like cholera and dysentery.

49. The term “photochemical smog” is caused by:

- A) Sunlight and pollutants
- B) Rain and dust
- C) Wind and smoke
- D) Fog and oxygen

Answer: A

Explanation: Photochemical smog forms when sunlight reacts with pollutants like nitrogen oxides.

50. The main source of air pollution in urban areas is:

- A) Deforestation
- B) Industrial emissions
- C) Rainfall
- D) Soil erosion

Answer: B

Explanation: Industrial emissions release pollutants like particulate matter and gases into the air.

Section 3: Conservation and Environmental Policies (Questions 51–100)

51. The “Chipko Movement” is associated with:

- A) Water conservation
- B) Forest conservation
- C) Air pollution control
- D) Wildlife protection

Answer: B

Explanation: The Chipko Movement (1970s) involved hugging trees to prevent deforestation.

52. World Environment Day is celebrated on:

- A) 5 June
- B) 22 April
- C) 1 December
- D) 8 March

Answer: A

Explanation: World Environment Day, observed on 5 June, promotes environmental awareness.

53. The “Paris Agreement” is related to:

- A) Biodiversity

- B) Climate change
- C) Ozone depletion
- D) Water conservation

Answer: B

Explanation: The Paris Agreement (2015) aims to limit global warming to below 2°C.

54. The International Day for Biological Diversity is observed on:

- A) 5 June
- B) 22 May
- C) 22 April
- D) 1 December

Answer: B

Explanation: International Day for Biological Diversity, celebrated on 22 May, promotes biodiversity conservation.

55. The “National Green Tribunal” in India was established in:

- A) 2005
- B) 2010
- C) 2015
- D) 2020

Answer: B

Explanation: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) was set up in 2010 to handle environmental disputes.

56. The “Project Tiger” was launched in:

- A) 1973
- B) 1983
- C) 1993
- D) 2003

Answer: A

Explanation: Project Tiger, launched in 1973, aims to conserve tiger populations in India.

57. The “Kyoto Protocol” is associated with:

- A) Ozone depletion
- B) Climate change
- C) Water pollution
- D) Soil erosion

Answer: B

Explanation: The Kyoto Protocol (1997) aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

58. The “Wildlife Protection Act” in India was passed in:

- A) 1962
- B) 1972
- C) 1982
- D) 1992

Answer: B

Explanation: The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, protects wildlife and their habitats.

59. The “Earth Summit” was held in:

- A) Rio de Janeiro
- B) Kyoto
- C) Montreal
- D) Stockholm

Answer: A

Explanation: The Earth Summit (1992) in Rio de Janeiro addressed sustainable development.

60. The main objective of the “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan” is:

- A) Forest conservation
- B) Cleanliness and sanitation
- C) Air pollution control
- D) Water conservation

Answer: B

Explanation: Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, launched in 2014, promotes cleanliness and sanitation.

61. The “National Action Plan on Climate Change” was launched in:

- A) 2008
- B) 2010
- C) 2012
- D) 2014

Answer: A

Explanation: NAPCC, launched in 2008, outlines India’s strategy to combat climate change.

62. The “Project Elephant” was launched in:

- A) 1982
- B) 1992
- C) 2002

D) 2012

Answer: B

Explanation: Project Elephant, launched in 1992, aims to protect elephants and their habitats.

63. The “Bharat Stage” norms are related to:

A) Water quality

B) Vehicle emission standards

C) Soil conservation

D) Forest protection

Answer: B

Explanation: Bharat Stage norms regulate vehicle emissions to reduce air pollution.

64. The “Ganga Action Plan” was launched to:

A) Conserve forests

B) Clean the Ganga River

C) Protect wildlife

D) Reduce air pollution

Answer: B

Explanation: The Ganga Action Plan (1986) aims to reduce pollution in the Ganga River.

65. The “National Biodiversity Authority” is headquartered in:

A) New Delhi

B) Chennai

C) Mumbai

D) Kolkata

Answer: B

Explanation: The National Biodiversity Authority is based in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

66. The “Forest Conservation Act” in India was passed in:

A) 1970

B) 1980

C) 1990

D) 2000

Answer: B

Explanation: The Forest Conservation Act, 1980, regulates forest land use for non-forest purposes.

67. The “Ramsar Convention” is related to:

- A) Wetlands conservation
- B) Forest conservation
- C) Air pollution
- D) Climate change

Answer: A

Explanation: The Ramsar Convention (1971) promotes the conservation of wetlands.

68. The “Namami Gange” program aims to:

- A) Conserve forests
- B) Clean the Ganga River
- C) Protect tigers
- D) Reduce air pollution

Answer: B

Explanation: Namami Gange, launched in 2014, focuses on cleaning and conserving the Ganga River.

69. The “National Mission for a Green India” is part of:

- A) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
- B) National Action Plan on Climate Change
- C) Project Tiger
- D) Ganga Action Plan

Answer: B

Explanation: It is one of the eight missions under NAPCC to increase forest cover.

70. The “World Wildlife Fund” (WWF) was established in:

- A) 1951
- B) 1961
- C) 1971
- D) 1981

Answer: B

Explanation: WWF, founded in 1961, works globally for wildlife and environmental conservation.

71. The “Sundarbans” is famous for:

- A) Tigers
- B) Elephants
- C) Lions
- D) Rhinos

Answer: A

Explanation: The Sundarbans is a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its Royal Bengal Tigers.

72. The “National Solar Mission” aims to promote:

- A) Wind energy
- B) Solar energy
- C) Hydro energy
- D) Biomass energy

Answer: B

Explanation: The National Solar Mission, under NAPCC, promotes solar energy in India.

73. The “World Ozone Day” is celebrated on:

- A) 5 June
- B) 16 September
- C) 22 April
- D) 22 May

Answer: B

Explanation: World Ozone Day, on 16 September, raises awareness about ozone layer protection.

74. The “Environment Protection Act” in India was passed in:

- A) 1976
- B) 1986
- C) 1996
- D) 2006

Answer: B

Explanation: The Environment Protection Act, 1986, was enacted post-Bhopal Gas Tragedy.

75. The “National Wildlife Action Plan” aims to:

- A) Reduce pollution
- B) Protect wildlife and habitats
- C) Promote agriculture
- D) Increase urbanization

Answer: B

Explanation: It focuses on protecting wildlife and their habitats in India.

76. The “CITES” agreement is related to:

- A) Climate change
- B) Trade in endangered species
- C) Ozone depletion
- D) Water conservation

Answer: B

Explanation: CITES (1973) regulates international trade in endangered species.

77. The “National River Conservation Plan” was launched in:

- A) 1985
- B) 1995
- C) 2005
- D) 2015

Answer: B

Explanation: The NRCP, launched in 1995, aims to clean polluted rivers in India.

78. The “Mangrove for the Future” initiative focuses on:

- A) Desert conservation
- B) Coastal ecosystem conservation
- C) Mountain ecosystems
- D) Urban greenery

Answer: B

Explanation: It promotes the conservation of mangroves and coastal ecosystems.

79. The “Clean Development Mechanism” is part of:

- A) Montreal Protocol
- B) Kyoto Protocol
- C) Paris Agreement
- D) Ramsar Convention

Answer: B

Explanation: The Clean Development Mechanism is a Kyoto Protocol initiative for emission reduction.

80. The “National Air Quality Index” was launched in:

- A) 2010
- B) 2014
- C) 2016
- D) 2018

Answer: B

Explanation: The AQI, launched in 2014, monitors air quality in Indian cities.

81. The “Silent Valley Movement” was related to:

- A) River conservation
- B) Forest conservation
- C) Air pollution
- D) Wildlife protection

Answer: B

Explanation: The Silent Valley Movement (1970s) saved a forest in Kerala from a dam project.

82. The “Bonn Convention” is related to:

- A) Migratory species
- B) Climate change
- C) Ozone depletion
- D) Water pollution

Answer: A

Explanation: The Bonn Convention (1979) protects migratory species across borders.

83. The “National Mission for Clean Ganga” was launched in:

- A) 2008
- B) 2010
- C) 2014
- D) 2016

Answer: C

Explanation: It was launched in 2014 as part of the Namami Gange program.

84. The “Eco-Mark” scheme in India promotes:

- A) Environment-friendly products
- B) Agricultural products
- C) Industrial products
- D) Electronic goods

Answer: A

Explanation: The Eco-Mark labels products that are environmentally sustainable.

85. The “National Wetland Conservation Programme” was launched to:

- A) Protect deserts
- B) Conserve wetlands
- C) Promote urbanization

D) Reduce air pollution

Answer: B

Explanation: It aims to conserve wetlands, critical for biodiversity and water management.

86. The “Earth Hour” initiative is organized by:

A) IUCN

B) WWF

C) UNEP

D) UNESCO

Answer: B

Explanation: Earth Hour, organized by WWF, promotes energy conservation by switching off lights for an hour.

87. The “National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem” is part of:

A) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

B) National Action Plan on Climate Change

C) Project Tiger

D) Ganga Action Plan

Answer: B

Explanation: It is one of the eight missions under NAPCC to protect the Himalayan ecosystem.

88. The “Central Pollution Control Board” was established under:

A) Water Act, 1974

B) Air Act, 1981

C) Environment Protection Act, 1986

D) Forest Conservation Act, 1980

Answer: A

Explanation: The CPCB was established under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

89. The “International Solar Alliance” was launched by:

A) India and France

B) India and USA

C) India and Japan

D) India and Germany

Answer: A

Explanation: The ISA, launched in 2015 by India and France, promotes solar energy globally.

90. The “National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency” is part of:

- A) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
- B) National Action Plan on Climate Change
- C) Project Tiger
- D) Ganga Action Plan

Answer: B

Explanation: It is one of the eight missions under NAPCC to promote energy efficiency.

91. The “World Summit on Sustainable Development” was held in:

- A) Rio de Janeiro
- B) Johannesburg
- C) Kyoto
- D) Montreal

Answer: B

Explanation: The summit, held in Johannesburg in 2002, focused on sustainable development.

92. The “Biodiversity Act” in India was passed in:

- A) 1992
- B) 2002
- C) 2012
- D) 2022

Answer: B

Explanation: The Biological Diversity Act, 2002, regulates access to biological resources.

93. The “Green India Mission” aims to:

- A) Reduce air pollution
- B) Increase forest cover
- C) Conserve rivers
- D) Protect wildlife

Answer: B

Explanation: The Green India Mission, under NAPCC, aims to increase forest cover and restore ecosystems.

94. The “National Clean Air Programme” was launched in:

- A) 2015
- B) 2017
- C) 2019

D) 2021

Answer: C

Explanation: NCAP, launched in 2019, aims to reduce air pollution in Indian cities.

95. The “Convention on Biological Diversity” was signed in:

A) 1972

B) 1982

C) 1992

D) 2002

Answer: C

Explanation: The CBD, signed in 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit, promotes biodiversity conservation.

96. The “National Board for Wildlife” is chaired by:

A) Prime Minister

B) Environment Minister

C) President

D) Chief Justice

Answer: A

Explanation: The Prime Minister chairs the National Board for Wildlife.

97. The “Swachh Bharat Mission” was launched in:

A) 2012

B) 2014

C) 2016

D) 2018

Answer: B

Explanation: Swachh Bharat Mission, launched in 2014, promotes cleanliness and sanitation.

98. The “Project Snow Leopard” was launched in:

A) 2009

B) 2011

C) 2013

D) 2015

Answer: A

Explanation: Project Snow Leopard, launched in 2009, conserves snow leopards and their habitats.

99. The “Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act” was passed in:

- A) 1971
- B) 1981
- C) 1991
- D) 2001

Answer: B

Explanation: The Air Act, 1981, regulates air pollution in India.

100. The “Global Environment Facility” was established in:

- A) 1981
- B) 1991
- C) 2001
- D) 2011

Answer: B

Explanation: The GEF, established in 1991, funds environmental projects globally.

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