

1. A state receives high rainfall, has steep slopes, and its topsoil gets washed away every monsoon. Despite being agriculturally active, the region keeps losing soil productivity. The most appropriate long-term consequence of this, as per the chapter, would be —

- a) Decrease in forest cover of the region
- b) Gradual conversion to wasteland over time
- c) Shift in cropping pattern toward cash crops
- d) Increase in the fallow land proportion annually

2. Alluvial soils are further divided into two types based on their age. The type that is older, found in elevated terraces, is relatively less fertile and has a higher concentration of kankar nodules is —

- a) Duars
- b) Bhabar
- c) Khadar
- d) Bangar

3. A soil sample shows high iron oxide content, turns hard on exposure to air, is found in areas of high temperature and heavy rainfall, and leaches heavily. The crop least likely to be successfully cultivated in this soil under normal conditions is —

- a) Tea
- b) Coffee
- c) Wheat
- d) Cashew

4. Resources are considered neutral until human beings find a use for them. Technology and institutions together determine whether something in nature becomes a resource. Without human intervention, nothing in the natural world holds any resource value on its own.

The option that contradicts the above is —

- a) Cultural values influence how societies perceive natural resources
- b) Resources are defined by their utility to human society
- c) Technology upgradation expands the range of usable resources
- d) A substance unused for centuries can still be called a resource

5. In India, the problem of land degradation is more severe in states like Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh compared to heavily forested northeastern states.

The most appropriate reason for the above is —

- a) These states receive excessive rainfall causing severe soil erosion
- b) Overgrazing and mining are absent but deforestation is the main cause
- c) Northeastern states have better irrigation facilities protecting their land
- d) Arid conditions, overgrazing and mining activity accelerate degradation there

6. India is often described as a resource rich country, yet it continues to face challenges of underdevelopment, regional imbalance, and resource depletion simultaneously. A policymaker sitting in New Delhi finds it difficult to design a single uniform development strategy that applies equally to Rajasthan, Meghalaya, Jharkhand and Kerala at the same time. Justify the necessity of a structured mechanism for resource development in such a country. (5)