

CUET PG 2026 Horticulture Question Paper with Solutions(Memory Based)

Time Allowed :1 Hours 30 min	Maximum Marks :300	Total Questions :75
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General Instructions

1. The exam lasts 90 minutes (1 hour 30 minutes).
2. There are 75 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) to be answered.
3. +4 marks for every correct answer. -1 mark (negative marking) for every incorrect answer. 0 marks for unanswered or un-attempted questions.
4. For any discrepancy in questions, the English version is considered final (except for language-specific papers).
5. Click one of the four options to choose an answer.
6. You must click "Save & Next" to confirm your response. Only saved answers are considered for evaluation.
7. Use "Mark for Review & Next" to flag a question for later. You can unselect or change your answer using the "Clear Response" button.
8. All calculations must be done on the Rough Sheets provided at the centre. These must be returned to the invigilator after the exam.

1. Which fruit is known as the "King of Fruits" in India?

- (A) Apple
- (B) Banana
- (C) Mango
- (D) Orange

Correct Answer: (3) Mango

Solution:

Concept: In general knowledge and cultural context, certain fruits are given honorary titles based on their popularity, taste, nutritional value, and historical significance. In India, the mango holds a special place and is widely referred to as the "King of Fruits".

Step 1: Understanding the title "King of Fruits".

This title is not scientific but cultural. It is given to a fruit that is highly valued for its taste, richness, and widespread appeal.

Step 2: Identifying the fruit in Indian context.

In India, the mango is considered the most loved fruit due to its sweet taste, variety of flavors, and extensive cultivation across the country.

Step 3: Evaluating the options.

- Apple → Popular fruit but not known as the "King of Fruits" in India (incorrect)
- Banana → Common fruit, widely consumed (incorrect)

- Mango → Known as the "King of Fruits" due to taste and cultural importance (correct)
- Orange → Nutritious but not given this title (incorrect)

Step 4: Additional insight.

Mangoes are deeply embedded in Indian culture and history. They are mentioned in ancient texts, used in festivals, and even associated with symbols of prosperity and love. India is also one of the largest producers of mangoes in the world, with famous varieties like Alphonso, Dasherri, and Langra.

Step 5: Conclusion.

Thus, the fruit known as the "King of Fruits" in India is the mango.

Quick Tip

Remember: Mango = King of Fruits, Apple = Often called a "health fruit".

2. What is the botanical name of the Guava plant?

- (A) *Mangifera indica*
- (B) *Psidium guajava*
- (C) *Musa paradisiaca*
- (D) *Citrus sinensis*

Correct Answer: (2) *Psidium guajava*

Solution:

Concept: Botanical names are scientific names assigned to plants using binomial nomenclature. Each plant has a unique Latin name consisting of genus and species.

Step 1: Understanding botanical names.

Botanical names help in universal identification of plants irrespective of regional languages.

Step 2: Identifying the guava plant.

The guava plant belongs to the genus *Psidium* and species *guajava*.

Step 3: Evaluating the options.

- *Mangifera indica* → Botanical name of mango (incorrect)
- *Psidium guajava* → Botanical name of guava (correct)
- *Musa paradisiaca* → Botanical name of banana (incorrect)
- *Citrus sinensis* → Botanical name of orange (incorrect)

Step 4: Additional insight.

Guava is a tropical fruit rich in vitamin C and dietary fiber. It is widely cultivated in India and is known for its medicinal and nutritional value.

Step 5: Conclusion.

Thus, the botanical name of guava is *Psidium guajava*.

Quick Tip

Remember: Psidium = Guava, Mangifera = Mango, Musa = Banana.

3. Which plant growth regulator is commonly used for rooting in cuttings?

- (A) Gibberellin
- (B) Cytokinin
- (C) Auxin
- (D) Ethylene

Correct Answer: (3) Auxin

Solution:

Concept: Plant growth regulators (PGRs) are chemicals that influence plant growth and development. Different PGRs have specific functions.

Step 1: Understanding rooting in cuttings.

Rooting in cuttings refers to the formation of roots from plant parts like stems or leaves.

Step 2: Role of plant growth regulators.

Auxins promote cell elongation and are especially effective in stimulating root initiation.

Step 3: Evaluating the options.

- Gibberellin → Promotes stem elongation (incorrect)
- Cytokinin → Promotes cell division and shoot formation (incorrect)
- Auxin → Stimulates root formation in cuttings (correct)
- Ethylene → Involved in fruit ripening (incorrect)

Step 4: Additional insight.

Common synthetic auxins used for rooting include IAA (Indole-3-acetic acid), IBA (Indole-3-butyric acid), and NAA (Naphthalene acetic acid).

Step 5: Conclusion.

Thus, auxin is the plant growth regulator commonly used for rooting in cuttings.

Quick Tip

Remember: Auxin = Root growth, Cytokinin = Shoot growth.

4. "Amrapali" is a cross between which two Mango varieties?

- (A) Dasherri × Langra
- (B) Dasherri × Neelum
- (C) Alphonso × Kesar
- (D) Langra × Neelum

Correct Answer: (2) Dasherri × Neelum

Solution:

Concept: Hybrid varieties are developed by crossing two different parent varieties to combine desirable traits such as yield, taste, disease resistance, and adaptability.

Step 1: Understanding hybridization.

Hybridization involves controlled pollination between two selected parent plants to produce improved offspring.

Step 2: Identifying Amrapali mango.

Amrapali is a well-known dwarf hybrid mango variety developed in India.

Step 3: Parent varieties of Amrapali.

It is a cross between Dasherri and Neelum mango varieties.

Step 4: Evaluating the options.

- Dasherri × Langra → Not correct
- Dasherri × Neelum → Correct hybrid combination
- Alphonso × Kesar → Not correct
- Langra × Neelum → Not correct

Step 5: Additional insight.

Amrapali mango trees are dwarf in size, suitable for high-density planting, and produce regular and high yields with good fruit quality.

Step 6: Conclusion.

Thus, "Amrapali" is a hybrid of Dasherri and Neelum.

Quick Tip

Remember: Amrapali = Dasherri + Neelum (popular hybrid mango).

5. The process of removing the terminal bud to promote lateral branching is called

-----.

- (A) Pruning
- (B) Pinching
- (C) Grafting
- (D) Layering

Correct Answer: (2) Pinching

Solution:

Concept: Plant growth can be manipulated by removing certain parts to control shape and branching. The terminal bud exerts apical dominance, suppressing lateral buds.

Step 1: Understanding apical dominance.

The terminal (apical) bud produces auxin, which inhibits the growth of lateral buds.

Step 2: Effect of removing terminal bud.

When the terminal bud is removed, apical dominance is broken, allowing lateral buds to grow.

Step 3: Identifying the process.

The specific removal of the terminal bud is known as pinching.

Step 4: Evaluating the options.

- Pruning → General removal of plant parts (incorrect)
- Pinching → Removal of terminal bud to promote branching (correct)
- Grafting → Joining plant parts (incorrect)
- Layering → Vegetative propagation method (incorrect)

Step 5: Additional insight.

Pinching is commonly practiced in ornamental plants and crops to encourage bushy growth and increase flower or fruit production.

Step 6: Conclusion.

Thus, the process is called pinching.

Quick Tip

Remember: Pinching = Remove tip → More branches.

6. Which nutrient deficiency causes "Buttoning" in Cauliflower?

- (A) Nitrogen
- (B) Phosphorus
- (C) Potassium
- (D) Boron

Correct Answer: (1) Nitrogen

Solution:

Concept: "Buttoning" in cauliflower refers to the formation of small, premature curds instead of large, well-developed heads. This is mainly due to improper nutrient supply and unfavorable growing conditions.

Step 1: Understanding buttoning.

Buttoning occurs when plants fail to achieve sufficient vegetative growth before curd formation.

Step 2: Role of nitrogen.

Nitrogen is essential for vegetative growth, including leaf and stem development.

Step 3: Effect of deficiency.

Nitrogen deficiency leads to stunted growth, causing early curd initiation and resulting in small "button-like" curds.

Step 4: Evaluating the options.

- Nitrogen → Causes poor vegetative growth leading to buttoning (correct)
- Phosphorus → Important for root development (incorrect)
- Potassium → Regulates water balance and disease resistance (incorrect)

- Boron → Causes browning and hollow stem, not buttoning (incorrect)

Step 5: Additional insight.

Other factors like over-aged seedlings, improper temperature, and poor soil fertility can also contribute to buttoning.

Step 6: Conclusion.

Thus, nitrogen deficiency is the primary cause of buttoning in cauliflower.

Quick Tip

Remember: Nitrogen = Vegetative growth; deficiency → small curds (buttoning).

7. "Arka Rakshak" is a high-yielding triple-resistant variety of which vegetable?

- (A) Brinjal
- (B) Tomato
- (C) Chilli
- (D) Cabbage

Correct Answer: (2) Tomato

Solution:

Concept: Improved crop varieties are developed for higher yield and resistance to multiple diseases. "Arka" varieties are developed by IIHR (Indian Institute of Horticultural Research).

Step 1: Understanding Arka Rakshak.

Arka Rakshak is a hybrid variety known for its high yield and disease resistance.

Step 2: Identifying the crop.

It is a variety of tomato developed for improved productivity.

Step 3: Triple resistance.

It shows resistance to three major diseases:

- Bacterial wilt
- Early blight
- Leaf curl virus

Step 4: Evaluating the options.

- Brinjal → Not correct
- Tomato → Correct
- Chilli → Not correct
- Cabbage → Not correct

Step 5: Additional insight.

Arka Rakshak produces firm, round fruits suitable for both fresh consumption and processing, making it popular among farmers.

Step 6: Conclusion.

Thus, Arka Rakshak is a high-yielding triple-resistant variety of tomato.

Quick Tip

Remember: Arka Rakshak = Tomato + Triple disease resistance.

8. In which type of garden style is the "Baradari" a typical feature?

- (A) Mughal Garden
- (B) Japanese Garden
- (C) English Garden
- (D) Formal Garden

Correct Answer: (1) Mughal Garden

Solution:

Concept: Different garden styles have unique architectural and landscape features. Mughal gardens are known for their symmetry, water channels, terraces, and structures like Baradari.

Step 1: Understanding Baradari.

A Baradari is a pavilion with twelve doors designed to allow free flow of air and provide a resting place.

Step 2: Association with garden style.

Baradaris are commonly found in Mughal gardens, reflecting Persian-influenced architecture.

Step 3: Evaluating the options.

- Mughal Garden → Known for Baradari structures (correct)
- Japanese Garden → Focuses on natural scenery (incorrect)
- English Garden → Informal and landscape-oriented (incorrect)
- Formal Garden → General category, not specific to Baradari (incorrect)

Step 4: Additional insight.

Famous Mughal gardens like Shalimar Bagh and Nishat Bagh feature Baradaris as central attractions.

Step 5: Conclusion.

Thus, Baradari is a typical feature of Mughal gardens.

Quick Tip

Remember: Baradari = Mughal garden architecture.

9. What is the maturity index for harvesting Banana?

- (A) Flowering stage
- (B) Fruit color change

- (C) Angularity of fingers
- (D) Leaf fall

Correct Answer: (3) Angularity of fingers

Solution:

Concept: Maturity indices are indicators used to determine the proper time for harvesting fruits to ensure quality and shelf life.

Step 1: Understanding banana maturity.

Bananas are harvested at the mature green stage before ripening begins.

Step 2: Key indicator.

The angularity (sharp edges) of banana fingers reduces as the fruit matures, becoming more rounded.

Step 3: Evaluating the options.

- Flowering stage → Too early (incorrect)
- Fruit color change → Occurs during ripening (incorrect)
- Angularity of fingers → Reliable maturity index (correct)
- Leaf fall → Not a maturity indicator (incorrect)

Step 4: Additional insight.

Other indices include fruit size, pulp-to-peel ratio, and days from flowering, but angularity is the most commonly used field indicator.

Step 5: Conclusion.

Thus, the maturity index for harvesting banana is the angularity of fingers.

Quick Tip

Remember: Banana maturity = Rounded fingers (loss of angularity).

10. Which method of irrigation is most suitable for arid and semi-arid horticultural regions?

- (A) Flood irrigation
- (B) Sprinkler irrigation
- (C) Drip irrigation
- (D) Basin irrigation

Correct Answer: (3) Drip irrigation

Solution:

Concept: Efficient water management is crucial in arid and semi-arid regions where water is scarce. Irrigation methods must minimize water loss and maximize efficiency.

Step 1: Understanding water scarcity.

In dry regions, evaporation and water wastage must be minimized.

Step 2: Drip irrigation advantage.

Drip irrigation delivers water directly to the root zone in small quantities, reducing evaporation and runoff losses.

Step 3: Evaluating the options.

- Flood irrigation → High water loss (incorrect)
- Sprinkler irrigation → Moderate efficiency, some evaporation loss (incorrect)
- Drip irrigation → Most efficient, minimal wastage (correct)
- Basin irrigation → Not suitable for water-scarce areas (incorrect)

Step 4: Additional insight.

Drip irrigation also improves fertilizer use efficiency (fertigation) and reduces weed growth.

Step 5: Conclusion.

Thus, drip irrigation is most suitable for arid and semi-arid horticultural regions.

Quick Tip

Remember: Dry areas = Drip irrigation (maximum water efficiency).

11. "Pusa Nanha" is a dioecious, dwarf variety of which fruit?

- (A) Papaya
- (B) Mango
- (C) Banana
- (D) Guava

Correct Answer: (1) Papaya

Solution:

Concept: Improved fruit varieties are developed for traits like dwarfness, early bearing, and suitability for high-density planting.

Step 1: Understanding "Pusa Nanha".

Pusa Nanha is a well-known dwarf variety developed for compact growth.

Step 2: Identifying the crop.

It is a variety of papaya characterized by short stature and early fruiting.

Step 3: Key features.

- Dwarf and compact plant
- Suitable for kitchen gardens and pot culture
- Early bearing

Step 4: Evaluating the options.

- Papaya → Correct

- Mango → Not correct
- Banana → Not correct
- Guava → Not correct

Step 5: Additional insight.

Being dioecious, papaya plants have separate male and female plants, which is important for pollination and fruit production.

Step 6: Conclusion.

Thus, Pusa Nanha is a dwarf variety of papaya.

Quick Tip

Remember: Pusa Nanha = Dwarf Papaya (ideal for small spaces).

12. The specialized branch of horticulture dealing with the cultivation of flowers is called?

- (A) Pomology
- (B) Olericulture
- (C) Floriculture
- (D) Arboriculture

Correct Answer: (3) Floriculture

Solution:

Concept: Horticulture is divided into specialized branches based on the type of crops cultivated.

Step 1: Understanding horticultural branches.

Each branch focuses on a specific category of plants such as fruits, vegetables, flowers, or trees.

Step 2: Identifying flower cultivation.

The branch that deals specifically with the cultivation, management, and marketing of flowers is floriculture.

Step 3: Evaluating the options.

- Pomology → Study of fruits (incorrect)
- Olericulture → Study of vegetables (incorrect)
- Floriculture → Study of flowers (correct)
- Arboriculture → Study of trees (incorrect)

Step 4: Additional insight.

Floriculture includes growing flowering plants for gardens, decorative purposes, and commercial uses like cut flowers and bouquets.

Step 5: Conclusion.

Thus, the branch is called floriculture.

Quick Tip

Remember: Flora = Flowers → Floriculture.

13. Which acid is used as a chemical preservative in RTS (Ready-to-Serve) beverages?

- (A) Citric acid
- (B) Benzoic acid
- (C) Acetic acid
- (D) Lactic acid

Correct Answer: (2) Benzoic acid

Solution:

Concept: Chemical preservatives are added to food and beverages to inhibit microbial growth and extend shelf life.

Step 1: Understanding RTS beverages.

RTS (Ready-to-Serve) beverages are processed drinks that require preservation to maintain quality during storage.

Step 2: Role of preservatives.

Preservatives prevent spoilage caused by bacteria, yeast, and molds.

Step 3: Identifying the correct acid.

Benzoic acid and its salts (like sodium benzoate) are commonly used preservatives in fruit-based beverages.

Step 4: Evaluating the options.

- Citric acid → Used for flavor and acidity, not primary preservative (incorrect)
- Benzoic acid → Common preservative in beverages (correct)
- Acetic acid → Found in vinegar (incorrect)
- Lactic acid → Produced during fermentation (incorrect)

Step 5: Additional insight.

Benzoic acid is effective in acidic conditions, making it suitable for fruit beverages with low pH.

Step 6: Conclusion.

Thus, benzoic acid is used as a chemical preservative in RTS beverages.

Quick Tip

Remember: RTS drinks → Benzoic acid (preservative).

14. "M-9" is a well-known dwarfing rootstock for which fruit crop?

- (A) Mango
- (B) Apple

- (C) Pear
- (D) Peach

Correct Answer: (2) Apple

Solution:

Concept: Rootstocks are used in fruit crops to control plant size, improve yield, and enhance resistance to pests and diseases.

Step 1: Understanding dwarfing rootstocks.

Dwarfing rootstocks reduce the size of the plant, making management and harvesting easier.

Step 2: Identifying M-9 rootstock.

M-9 (Malling 9) is a widely used dwarfing rootstock.

Step 3: Crop association.

M-9 is specifically used in apple cultivation for high-density planting systems.

Step 4: Evaluating the options.

- Mango → Not associated with M-9 (incorrect)
- Apple → Correct
- Pear → Uses different rootstocks (incorrect)
- Peach → Not associated with M-9 (incorrect)

Step 5: Additional insight.

M-9 rootstock produces early-bearing trees with high productivity but requires support due to weak root anchorage.

Step 6: Conclusion.

Thus, M-9 is a dwarfing rootstock used for apple.

Quick Tip

Remember: M-9 = Apple dwarf rootstock.

15. What is the primary pigment responsible for the red color in Tomatoes?

- (A) Chlorophyll
- (B) Carotene
- (C) Lycopene
- (D) Xanthophyll

Correct Answer: (3) Lycopene

Solution:

Concept: Plant pigments are responsible for the color of fruits and vegetables. Different pigments produce different colors.

Step 1: Understanding pigments.

Pigments like chlorophyll, carotenoids, and anthocyanins give color to plant parts.

Step 2: Identifying tomato color.

The red color of ripe tomatoes is due to a carotenoid pigment.

Step 3: Specific pigment.

Lycopene is the pigment responsible for the red coloration in tomatoes.

Step 4: Evaluating the options.

- Chlorophyll → Green pigment (incorrect)
- Carotene → Orange pigment (incorrect)
- Lycopene → Red pigment in tomatoes (correct)
- Xanthophyll → Yellow pigment (incorrect)

Step 5: Additional insight.

Lycopene is a powerful antioxidant and is beneficial for human health, especially for heart health.

Step 6: Conclusion.

Thus, lycopene is the primary pigment responsible for the red color in tomatoes.

Quick Tip

Remember: Tomato red = Lycopene.