CUET UG 2026 Environmental Science May 15 Shift 1 Question Paper

Conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA)

Time Allowed: 60 Minutes **Total Questions: 50** **Maximum Marks: 250**

General Instructions

(i) This is the **Environmental Science** question paper of **CUET (UG) 2026**, conducted by the **National Testing Agency (NTA)** in Computer Based Test (CBT) mode.

(ii) The paper contains **50 multiple choice questions**. All questions are compulsory.

(iii) The duration of this test paper is **60 minutes**. The maximum score is **250 marks**.

(iv) Each question has **four options**. Select the **one correct answer** for each question.

(v) **Marking scheme: +5 marks** for a correct answer, **-1 mark** for an incorrect answer, and **0 marks** for an unanswered question.

(vi) For questions based on a passage or table, read the given material carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1. Match List-I with List-II.

List-I (Sustainable Development Goal number as per UNSDGs-17 List)	List-II (Objective)
(A) Ten	(I) Life below water
(B) Fourteen	(II) Life on land
(C) Fifteen	(III) Reduced Inequalities
(D) Sixteen	(IV) Peace, justice and strong institutions

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

(A) A - I, B - II, C - III, D - IV
(B) A - III, B - II, C - I, D - IV
(C) A - III, B - I, C - II, D - IV
(D) A - I, B - III, C - II, D - IV

2. Match List-I with List-II.

List-I	List-II
(A) Stewardship of land	(I) Capitalism is the real cause of environmental degradation
(B) Shallow Ecology	(II) Hierarchical and class system are responsible for environmental degradation.
(C) Social Ecology	(III) Responsible planning and management of resources.
(D) Socialist Ecology	(IV) Conserve environment only to meet human needs.

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

(A) A - I, B - II, C - IV, D - III
(B) A - II, B - III, C - I, D - IV
(C) A - III, B - IV, C - II, D - I
(D) A - IV, B - III, C - II, D - I

3. First "Earth Day" was celebrated on _____.

(A) April 20, 1970
(B) April 22, 1970
(C) April 20, 1972
(D) April 22, 1972

4. Which of the following issue is NOT addressed by Eco-feminism?

(A) Animal rights
(B) Agriculture development
(C) Air Pollution
(D) Nuclear weapon policies

5. Which of the following formula is correct to calculate "the average rate of change in the number of organisms per time, per organisms", in population growth rate ?
Where, N represent the number of organisms and t is the time.

(A) ΔN
(B) $\frac{\Delta N}{N\,\Delta t}$
(C) $\frac{\Delta N}{\Delta t}$
(D) $\frac{\Delta t}{N\,\Delta N}$

6. Arrange the following forest types according to latitudinal zonation from equator towards poles A. Deciduous Forest B. Coniferous Forest C. Grassland D. Tundra Forest E. Tropical rain Forest Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

(A) C, E, B, A, D
(B) C, E, A, B, D
(C) E, C, A, B, D
(D) E, C, B, A, D

7. Arrange the following ecological succession in the lithosphere (rocks) from final to initial succession stage A. Moss stage B. Foliose - lichens stage C. Herbaceous stage D. Crustose - lichens Stage E. Shrub stage Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

(A) E, C, D, A, B
(B) E, C, B, A, D
(C) E, C, A, B, D
(D) E, C, A, D, B

8. Which of the following ecological pyramid is always inverted?

(A) Pyramid of Number in Grassland ecosystem
(B) Pyramid of Number in Parasitic food chain
(C) Pyramid of Biomass in forest ecosystem
(D) Pyramid of energy in grassland ecosystem

9. Diversity of habitat over the total landscape or geographical area is referred to as _____

(A) Genetic diversity
(B) Alfa diversity
(C) Beta diversity
(D) Gamma diversity

10. Parasites, that feed on external surface of the host organism are called_____.

(A) Endo parasites
(B) Brood parasites
(C) Ecto parasites
(D) Commens parasites

11. Commensalism is a kind of population interaction, in which _____.

(A) Both the species are benenfitted.
(B) One species is benefitted and other is harmed.
(C) One species is benefitted and other is unaffected.
(D) Both the species are harmed.

12. Which of the following are criteria air pollutants under NAAQS in India? A. CO B. CO2 C. NO2 D. SO2 E. Pb Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

(A) A, B, C and D only
(B) B, C, D and E only
(C) A, C, D and E only
(D) A, C and E only

13. Arrange the following in increasing order of their sand content A. Sandy soil B. Silty Soil C. Clayey soil D. Loamy soil Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

(A) C, D, B, A
(B) C, B, D, A
(C) A, D, B, C
(D) B, C, D, A

14. Which of the following soil horizon of a typical soil profile will have the highest abudance of organic matter?

(A) C horizon
(B) A horizon
(C) B horizon
(D) R horizon

15. Which of the following can directly cause eutrophication in lakes? A. Sewage waste B. Acidic precipitation C. Agriculture runoff D. Sulfur rich effluent from thermal power plant E. Municipal waste water Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

(A) A, C and D only
(B) B, D and E only
(C) B, C and D only
(D) A, C and E only

16. Choose the correct statement about water pollution? A. Dissolved oxygen is inversely proportional to BOD in waste water. B. Dissolved ion increases turbidity of water. C. Turbidity is a measure of transparency of water. D. Alkalinity is caused by carbonate, bicarbonate and hydroxides. E. Alkalinity is base neutralising capacity of water. Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

(A) A, B, C and D Only
(B) A, B, C and E Only
(C) A, C and D Only
(D) A, C, D and E Only

17. Which of the following is NOT an air pollution control measure/ technique?

(A) Bag houses
(B) Electrostatic Precipitators
(C) High Volume Air Sampler
(D) Cyclone Chambers

18. Arrange the following steps involved in the sewage treatment in correct order from initial to the last. A. Coagulation and Flocculation B. Chemical disinfection C. Screening D. Distribution of treated water E. Sediment and filtration Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

(A) E, C, B, A, D
(B) C, E, B, A, D
(C) C, E, A, B, D
(D) C, A, B, E, D

19. Gandhiji's concept of development is Sarvodaya which can be achieved through _____

(A) Navodaya
(B) Suryaodaya
(C) Antyodaya
(D) Sampuranodaya

20. Which of the following is not considered as a typical case of migration?

(A) Forceful migration due to terrorism.
(B) Nomadic movements without any intent.
(C) Migration to urban areas for search of jobs.
(D) Voluntary migration within one's region or country.

21. Which of the following species is also called as the "Terror of Bengal"?

(A) Clarias gariepinus
(B) Tectona grandis
(C) Eichhornia crassipes
(D) Tamarix dioica

22. Which of the following process of safe disposal of waste will require least amount of energy input?

(A) Incineration
(B) Pyrolysis
(C) Composting
(D) Plasma Arc

23. Choose the correct statements about natural and organic farming A. Natural farming is an example of closed system of farming B. No human supplied artificial inputs are used in natural farming C. Traditional farming promotes polyculture D. Organic farming combines scientific knowledge with traditional farming practices E. Organic farming relies on growing multiple crops on same space Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

(A) A, B, C, D and E
(B) B, C, D and E only
(C) A, B, C and E only
(D) A, B, D and E only

24. Which of the following does not apply to High Yielding Varieties (HYVs) of crops?

(A) They are semi-dwarf and are protected from strong winds.
(B) They mature early and save time for raising other crops in same field.
(C) They are disease resistant and does not require pesticides.
(D) They require better input like water and fertilisers.

25. Match List-I with List-II.

List-I (Water harvesting method)	**List-II (State/UT in which its popularly used)**
(A) Nadis	(I) Jammu and Kashmir
(B) Bandiharas	(II) Rajasthan
(C) Ponds	(III) Maharashtra
(D) Eris	(IV) Tamil Nadu

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

(A) A - I, B - II, C - III, D - IV
(B) A - II, B - III, C - I, D - IV
(C) A - I, B - III, C - II, D - IV
(D) A - IV, B - III, C - I, D - II

26. Which of the following is NOT true for mixed farming?

(A) It helps in maintaining soil fertility.
(B) It reduces soil erosion.
(C) It improves production level and give higher production than monoculture.
(D) It provides suitable habitat for birds.

27. The measure of number of different food groups consumed over a specific reference period (24 hr/ 8hr/ 7 days) is known as _____.

(A) Household food insecurity scale
(B) Household dietary diversity scale
(C) Household hunger scale
(D) Coping strategies index

28. Which of the following is an example of Kharif Crop?

(A) Wheat
(B) Gram
(C) Paddy
(D) Mustard

29. Which of the following state in India first adopted Green Revolution ?

(A) Haryana
(B) Punjab
(C) Uttar Pradesh
(D) Madhya Pradesh

30. Match List-I with List-II.

List-I (Ecosystem services)	**List-II (explanation or example)**
(A) Provisioning Services	(I) All services which are neccessary for production of all ecosystem services.
(B) Regulating Services	(II) Ecosystem is a store house of formal and informal education.
(C) Cultural Services	(III) Soil erosion is reduced by plants by binding soil particles.
(D) Supporting Services	(IV) Genetic resources including crop improvement and health care.

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

(A) A - II, B - III, C - IV, D - I
(B) A - IV, B - III, C - II, D - I
(C) A - III, B - II, C - IV, D - I
(D) A - IV, B - I, C - II, D - III

31. Resources that have been surveyed but cannot used by humans due to lack of technology are known as _____

(A) Potential resources
(B) Actual resources
(C) Reserve resources
(D) Stock resources

32. Match List-I with List-II.

List-I (Type of externality)	**List-II (Example)**
(A) Negative production externality	(I) A good attractive house increases value of that area.
(B) Negative consumption externality	(II) Development of an airport will benefit trade and business due to increased accessibility.
(C) Positive production externality	(III) Increased risk of accidents due to many vehicles.
(D) Positive consumption externality	(IV) Industrial effluents contaminating rivers and streams.

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

(A) A - III, B - II, C - IV, D - I
(B) A - IV, B - III, C - II, D - I
(C) A - III, B - IV, C - II, D - I
(D) A - I, B - III, C - II, D - IV

33. Which of the following is the correct relationship between Gross Domestic product (GDP), Gross National Product (GNP), Net Income Receipt (X), and Net Outflow to the foreign Assets (Y)?

(A) GNP = GDP - X + Y
(B) GNP = GDP + X - Y
(C) GDP - X = GNP + Y
(D) GDP + Y = GNP - X

34. Ecological Foot Print (EFP) does not measure-

(A) Amount of waste generated by human population
(B) Consumption of natural resources by human population
(C) Income generated by human population
(D) Demand of human from ecosystems

35. Agreement between two or more nations to reduce or eliminate tariff and non-tariff barrier on trade is known as:-

(A) Free trade agreements
(B) Foreign trade agreements
(C) Free tariff treaty
(D) Custom trade agreements

36. An international effort “REDD+” was proposed in the year 2005 by developing countries for .

(A) Reducing CFCs emissions for recovery of ozone layer
(B) Reducing deforestation to combat global warming
(C) Conserving wetlands for water management
(D) Conserving fossil fuel for next generation

37. Which of the following are important cycles of catalytic destruction of ozone in stratosphere ? A. CO / CO2 B. HO / HO2 C. NO / NO2 D. Cl / ClO E. SO / SO2 Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

(A) A and D only
(B) B, C and D only
(C) A, C and D only
(D) A, D and E only

38. Which of the following gas is both a green house gas and a criteria air pollutants?

(A) Nitrous oxide
(B) Carbon dioxide
(C) Ozone
(D) Sulphur hexafluoride

39. Arrange the following international events in a chronological order starting from old to recent as per their year of enactment. A. Basel Convention B. Bamako Convention C. Paris Agreement on Climate Change D. Kigali Amendment E. Kyoto Protocol Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

(A) A, E, C, D, B
(B) D, C, B, A, E
(C) A, E, B, C, D
(D) E, B, A, C, D

40. Total columnar ozone in the atmosphere is measured in Dobson units. One Dobson unit corresponds to _____

(A) $\frac{1}{10}$ of mm
(B) $\frac{1}{100}$ of mm
(C) $\frac{1}{1000}$ of mm
(D) $\frac{1}{100}$ of cm

Read the passage and answer Questions 41-45.

For any ecosystem, a constant input of energy is the basic requirement for its functioning and sustenance. The productivity of an ecosystem is calculated as the rate of biomass production expressed as gram/square meter/year (g. m^{-2}. yr^{-1}). The rate of production of organic matter during photosynthesis is called gross primary productivity (GPP). A considerable portion of GPP is consumed and utilized by plants during respiration. Therefore, the biomass available for heterotrophs is known as net primary productivity (NPP). The rate of formation of new organic matter by consumers is known as secondary productivity (SP).

Primary productivity depends on the plants species inhabiting a particular area, availability of nutrients, photosynthetic capacity of plants, and other environmental factors. The annual NPP of whole biosphere is approximately 170 billion tons, out of which, productivity of oceans is around 55 billions tons. In soil, the dead organic matter is converted to humans through humification. Humus undergoes slow degradation and is a reservoir of soil nutrients. Over a period of time, humus is further degraded by microbes and release nutrients by a process called mineralization.

41. Annual NPP of land area on the earth is _____

(A) < 55 billion tons
(B) between 55 to 100 billion tons
(C) About 115 billion tons
(D) 225 billion tons

42. For any ecosystem, a constant input of energy is the basic requirement for its functioning and sustenance. The productivity of an ecosystem is calculated as the rate of biomass production expressed as gram/square meter/year (g. m^{-2}. yr^{-1}). The rate of production of organic matter during photosynthesis is called gross primary productivity (GPP). A considerable portion of GPP is consumed and utilized by plants during respiration. Therefore, the biomass available for heterotrophs is known as net primary productivity (NPP). The rate of formation of new organic matter by consumers is known as secondary productivity (SP). Primary productivity depends on the plants species inhabiting a particular area, availability of nutrients, photosynthetic capacity of plants, and other environmental factors. The annual NPP of whole biosphere is approximately 170 billion tons, out of which, productivity of oceans is around 55 billions tons. In soil, the dead organic matter is converted to humus through humification. Humus undergoes slow degradation and is a reservoir of soil nutrients. Over a period of time, humus is further degraded by microbes and release nutrients by a process called mineralization. Which of the following is not associated with photosynthetic plants?

(A) Net primary productivity
(B) Gross primary productivity
(C) Primary productivity
(D) Secondary productivity

43. For any ecosystem, a constant input of energy is the basic requirement for its functioning and sustenance. The productivity of an ecosystem is calculated as the rate of biomass production expressed as gram/square meter/year (g. m^{-2}. yr^{-1}). The rate of production of organic matter during photosynthesis is called gross primary productivity (GPP). A considerable portion of GPP is consumed and utilized by plants during respiration. Therefore, the biomass available for heterotrophs is known as net primary productivity (NPP). The rate of formation of new organic matter by consumers is known as secondary productivity (SP). Primary productivity depends on the plants species inhabiting a particular area, availability of nutrients, photosynthetic capacity of plants, and other environmental factors. The annual NPP of whole biosphere is approximately 170 billion tons, out of which, productivity of oceans is around 55 billions tons. In soil, the dead organic matter is converted to humus through humification. Humus undergoes slow degradation and is a reservoir of soil nutrients. Over a period of time, humus is further degraded by microbes and release nutrients by a process called mineralization. Choose the correct statement.

(A) Annual NPP of land area is higher than oceans.
(B) NPP is greater than GPP in terrestrial ecosystems.
(C) Secondary productivity is always higher than Primary productivity in Oceanic ecosystem.
(D) Primary productivity is unaffected by environmental factors.

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Primary productivity depends on the plants species inhabiting a particular area, availability of nutrients, photosynthetic capacity of plants, and other environmental factors. The annual NPP of whole biosphere is approximately 170 billion tons, out of which, productivity of oceans is around 55 billions tons. In soil, the dead organic matter is converted to humus through humification. Humus undergoes slow degradation and is a reservoir of soil nutrients. Over a period of time, humus is further degraded by microbes and release nutrients by a process called mineralization.
Inorganic nutrients are released into the soil by the decomposition of dead organic matter through a process called as _____

(A) Photosynthesis
(B) Mineralization
(C) Purification
(D) Respiration

45. Which of the following units can be appropriately used in the expression of Primary Productivity of an ecosystem?

(A) g m^2/yr
(B) Kg/Km^2/yr
(C) g/yr
(D) g/m/yr

46. Smog, a term coined 50 years ago, from the words "Smoke" and "fog" is a dirty yellow-brown cloudy formation in lower portion of troposphere near the ground. Smog, we are most familiar with are Los Angles and London smog. Former is a example of photochemical smog, and later is a classical smog which contained sulphur dioxide, sulphur trioxide, sulphuric acid, heavy suspended particles, and water vapours. Los Angles smog was formed by photochemical reactions among nitrogen oxides and volatile hydrocarbons in presence of sunlight. This type of smog contains ozone, PAN, formaldehyde, and causes eye irritation, impairs pulmonary functions and damage plants and crops.
Choose the incorrect statement

(A) Smog is formed near the ground in the troposphere.
(B) Nitrogen oxides impart yellow-brown colour to smog.
(C) Photochemical smog formation is maximum when sun is overhead in the day.
(D) Photochemical smog formation is maximum in winter compared to summer season.

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Smog clouds of sulphur dioxide, water droplets and sulphuric acid droplets can be referred to as_____.

(A) Photochemical smog
(B) Oxidising smog
(C) Los Angles smog
(D) Reducing smog

48. Smog, a term coined 50 years ago, from the words "Smoke" and "fog" is a dirty yellow-brown cloudy formation in lower portion of troposphere near the ground. Smog, we are most familiar with are Los Angles and London smog. Former is a example of photochemical smog, and later is a classical smog which contained sulphur dioxide, sulphur trioxide, sulphuric acid, heavy suspended particles, and water vapours. Los Angles smog was formed by photochemical reactions among nitrogen oxides and volatile hydrocarbons in presence of sunlight. This type of smog contains ozone, PAN, formaldehyde, and causes eye irritation, impairs pulmonary functions and damage plants and crops.
Which of the following is not essentially required for photochemical smog formation?

(A) Nitrogen oxides
(B) Sunlight
(C) Water Vapour
(D) Volatile hydrocarbons

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Which of the following is not formed during Photochemical smog formation?

(A) Ozone
(B) Aldehydes
(C) Peroxy acetyl nitrate
(D) Sulphuric Acid

50. Smog, a term coined 50 years ago, from the words "Smoke" and "fog" is a dirty yellow-brown cloudy formation in lower portion of troposphere near the ground. Smog, we are most familiar with are Los Angles and London smog. Former is a example of photochemical smog, and later is a classical smog which contained sulphur dioxide, sulphur trioxide, sulphuric acid, heavy suspended particles, and water vapours. Los Angles smog was formed by photochemical reactions among nitrogen oxides and volatile hydrocarbons in presence of sunlight. This type of smog contains ozone, PAN, formaldehyde, and causes eye irritation, impairs pulmonary functions and damage plants and crops.
Choose the correct statement

(A) Ozone formed during photochemical smog protects us from UV radiations.
(B) Increase in tropospheric ozone can reduce food production.
(C) Photochemical smog formation is maximum in morning and evening due to heavy traffic hours.
(D) Vehicular exhaust does not contain any precursors of ozone formation in the troposphere.

- End of Question Paper -