

**Q.9. Why is the issue of sustainability important for development ?** [CBSE 2015]

- Ans.** (i) It cares for the needs of the future generations.  
(ii) It promotes a rational use of natural resources.  
(iii) It lays emphasis on quality life.  
(iv) The Earth has enough non-renewable resources to meet our present and future needs for development, if we use them in an economic manner. But, if we use them recklessly in the greed of rapid economic development, our world may become a vast wasteland.

**Q.10. "The Earth has enough resources to meet the needs of all but not enough to satisfy the greed of even one person". How is this statement relevant to the discussion of development ? Discuss.**

- Ans.** (i) Sustainability is the capacity to use the resources judiciously and maintain their balance. Every generation wants to get the greatest benefits from the available resources but such a thing would be quite disastrous because the available resources would be exhausted within a short time.

As a result, especially our coming generations would be deprived of such resources.

- (ii) We should use our resources more judiciously so that a certain part of them is left for our coming generations to use it in future. We should protect our animal wealth, both animals and birds from human exploitation, otherwise some species will be lost forever.  
(iii) Certain resources like water, wind, energy and solar energy are inexhaustible but we must see that they are not put to wrong use. There is no harm in using the land for cultivation but we should see that its fertility is maintained, otherwise, sooner or later it will turn into a wasteland.  
(iv) It protects environment.

**Q.11. List a few examples of environmental degradation that you may have observed around you.**

Or

**"Consequences of environmental degradation do not respect national or state boundaries". Justify the statement.** [CBSE 2012, 2015]

- Ans.** (i) **Land degradation** : There is a serious problem of land degradation and soil erosion around me. Nearly 53% of the total land area in India is suffering from serious degradation. The annual soil loss from erosion is tremendous that has disastrous consequences.

- (ii) **Decline in groundwater** : Groundwater is under serious threat of overuse in many parts of my locality.
- (iii) **Deforestation** : India's forests have been viciously attacked and destroyed especially since independence. The forests change into factories, residential and commercial buildings which produce more heat, noise and pollutions and bring environmental degradation.
- (iv) **Mining** : Mining activities have been destroying land, water, forest and air which result in environmental degradation.
- (v) **Air pollution** : Industrialisation and urbanisation has led to air pollution. Some chemical gases are directly poisonous while other gases damage the ozone layer of the atmosphere.
- (vi) **Water pollution** : Water pollution is a result of discharge of untreated water from industry, domestic sewage and fertilizers or pesticides run-off from agricultural fields.