

Class 11 - English

The Ailing Planet: the Green Movement's Role

CBSE NOTES

The Ailing Planet: the Green Movement's Role - Mastery Worksheet

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Mastery Questions

1. Discuss the shift from a mechanistic view to a holistic and ecological view as described by Palkhivala. How does this shift reflect contemporary environmental concerns?

Hint: Consider specific instances where mechanistic views manifest in policies and their ecological impacts.

Solution: Palkhivala outlines a shift from viewing the earth as merely a resource bank to understanding it as a living entity. This shift emphasizes interconnectedness within ecosystems and our ethical obligations as stewards. Contemporary concerns, such as climate change and biodiversity loss, echo this need for holistic approaches to sustainability.

2. Analyze the concept of sustainable development as proposed by the World Commission on Environment and Development. How does it interact with the notion of intergenerational equity?

Hint: Reflect on examples of policies that achieve sustainability and compare them to those that do not.

Solution: Sustainable development is defined as meeting current needs without compromising future generations' ability to meet theirs, thus promoting intergenerational equity. This principle stresses the importance of resource management and ecological integrity for long-term viability.

3. Evaluate the significance of Mr. Lester R. Brown's observations about biological systems in the global economic context. What are the implications of their depletion?

Hint: Consider current events linking economic crises to ecological degradation.

Solution: Brown identifies four crucial biological systems: fisheries, forests, grasslands, and croplands, which are vital to the global economy. Their depletion threatens food security, economic stability, and ecological balance, illustrating the urgency for sustainable practices.

4. How does the metaphor of 'the world's most dangerous animal' contribute to the overarching message of the text?

Hint: Discuss the implications of this metaphor in relation to personal and collective responsibility.

Solution: The metaphor indicates humanity's detrimental impact on the planet, showcasing our capacity for destruction. It implicates human behavior in ecological crises and highlights the transition from domination to partnership with nature as essential for survival.

5. Critically assess the impact of population growth on environmental sustainability as highlighted by Palkhivala. What strategies can be adopted to mitigate these impacts?

Hint: Investigate how different countries have successfully implemented population control initiatives.

Solution: Palkhivala emphasizes that unchecked population growth exacerbates resource depletion and environmental degradation. Strategies include promoting education, access to family planning, and equitable resource distribution to balance population dynamics and environmental health.

6. Explain the relationship between environmental laws and their enforcement in India as discussed by Palkhivala. What are the challenges faced?

Hint: Research case studies where enforcement succeeded or failed to highlight systemic issues.

Solution: Palkhivala points out that despite existing laws like Article 48A of the Indian Constitution, enforcement is weak, leading to severe environmental degradation. Challenges include bureaucratic inertia, corruption, and lack of public awareness.

7. Assess Palkhivala's view on the ethical obligations of current generations towards future generations regarding environmental stewardship.

Hint: Reflect on personal and community actions that align with or contradict these ethical obligations.

Solution: Palkhivala argues that we are trustees of the planet, responsible for leaving it habitable for future generations. This necessitates ethical decision-making in policy and lifestyle to avoid bequeathing ecological crises.

8. Contrast the ecological perspectives presented by Palkhivala with the traditional economic views of growth. How does this contrast inform contemporary sustainability debates?

Hint: Look at case studies of countries prioritizing environmental over economic indicators.

Solution: Palkhivala promotes an ecological perspective that prioritizes environmental integrity over mere economic growth. This contrasts with traditional views that see growth as paramount, informing contemporary debates about the need to redefine success in terms of ecological health.

9. Reflect on how Palkhivala's assertion that 'we have borrowed this earth from our children' impacts societal attitudes towards environmental conservation.

Hint: Consider how educational initiatives can instill this mindset in younger generations.

Solution: 'This assertion fosters a sense of responsibility towards future generations and encourages proactive conservation efforts. It shifts the narrative from ownership to stewardship, integrating future welfare into current decision-making.

10. Identify the language devices used by Palkhivala to enhance his arguments about the environment. How effective are these devices in conveying his message?

Hint: Examine specific examples in the text where these devices are prominent.

Solution: Palkhivala utilizes metaphors, anecdotes, and rhetorical questions to enhance the emotional appeal of his arguments. These devices effectively engage readers, evoke concern, and motivate action regarding environmental issues.

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