

ST. ANDREWS SCOTS SCHOOL

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CLASS: VIII	SUB: SOCIAL SCIENCE	TOPIC: Geography	CH-1
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NATURAL RESOURCES & THEIR IMPORTANCE

A. Tick (✓) The Correct Option:

1. Which of the following best describes a resource in geography?
(ii) Anything that satisfies human needs and is usable
2. Which one is an example of a potential resource?
(iii) Uranium in Ladakh (✓)
3. Which pillar determines whether a resource is socially accepted for use?
(ii) Cultural acceptability (✓)
4. Which of the following is a biotic resource?
(iii) Wheat crop (✓)
5. Which process makes water a renewable resource?
(ii) Water cycle (✓)
6. Which factor mainly explains why petroleum is found in sedimentary basins?
(iii) Geology (✓)
7. The Chota Nagpur Plateau is important because it is rich in:
(ii) Coal, iron ore, and manganese (✓)

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. A substance becomes a resource only when humans have the **ability** to use it.
2. Metallic minerals are commonly found in ancient **crystalline** rocks.
3. Resources like solar and wind energy are considered **renewable** because they do not get exhausted.
4. Extracting more groundwater than nature can refill is called **groundwater depletion**.
5. **Biotic** resources come from living organisms such as plants and animals.
6. The 'Natural Resource Curse' often affects countries that depend heavily on a single **valuable** resource.
7. Stewardship means taking **responsibility** for protecting natural resources for the future.

C. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements:

1. Stock resources cannot be used because their quantity is unknown. (F)
2. Afforestation is an important method to maintain renewable forest resources. (T)
3. Climate has no effect on the distribution of natural resources. (F)
4. Overuse of chemical fertilizers can lead to soil degradation. (T)
5. Countries rich in minerals always have strong and stable economies. (F)
6. Groundwater stored in aquifers is an important freshwater source. (T)
7. Sustainable development aims to balance present needs with future needs. (T)

D. Answer the following question in brief :

1. Why is coal considered as a non renewable resource?

Coal is considered as a non renewable resource because it exists in limited quantity and require millions of years for its formation.

2. What are abiotic resources ? Give one example.

Abiotic resources come from the non living world. They do not have life, but they are extremely important for survival and development. For example
land , water air and sunlight.

3. Define biodiversity loss in simple terms ?

The extinction of species due to human and natural influences is known as biodiversity loss.

4. What are the main factors responsible for uneven distribution of natural resources across the Earth?

The uneven distribution of natural resources is primarily caused by variations in physical factors such as: terrain, topography, climate & altitude .

E. Answer the following questions in detail :

1. What are the 3 pillars that determine whether something can be become a resource?

a. Technological Accessibility

We must have the right tools, machines, and scientific knowledge to extract or use something. Humanity may know that something exists in nature, but unless we have the technology to take it out and make use of it, it cannot become a resource.

For example, uranium

b. Economic Feasibility

Using a resource should be affordable and practical. If the cost of finding, extracting, processing, or transporting a substance is more than the benefit we get from it, then it cannot be considered a useful resource.

For example, oil can be extracted from tar sands (oil sands), but the process is extremely costly.

c. Cultural Acceptability

People must be willing to use the resource, and society must accept it. Sometimes a resource is technologically possible and economically efficient, but people are uncomfortable with its use due to beliefs, values, or safety concerns. For example, nuclear power can produce large amounts of electricity, but in some places, people are worried about radiation and safety.

2. Describe the differences between actual, potential, stock and reserve resources with examples ?

- a. **Actual Resources:** Resources whose quantity is known and are being used right now. Ex: Coal being mined in Jharkhand.
- b. **Potential Resources:** Resources that we think exist and may be useful in future, but we do not know their full quantity yet . Ex: Uranium deposits in Ladakh.
- c. **Stock Resources:** Resources that we know exist and can be useful, but we cannot use them now because we lack the technology. Ex: Hydrogen in water that can provide energy, but current technology is not affordable for large-scale use.
- d. **Reserves :** A part of actual resources that we keep aside for future use, even though we have the technology to use them today. Ex: An oil field a country chooses not to drill today to save for future generations.

3. Discuss any 3 major causes of groundwater depletion in India.

Causes of Overexploitation in India are :

- a. **Rapid Population Growth:** Increased demand for drinking and sanitation water in both urban and rural areas.
- b. **Intensive Agriculture (The Green Revolution Effect):** The shift to water-intensive crops (like rice and sugarcane) in dry regions, supported by subsidised electricity for tube wells, has caused excessive pumping.
- c. **Industrial Demand:** Water is essential for manufacturing, cooling, and waste disposal in factories, leading to massive extraction.
- d. **Poor Water Management:** Inefficient farming methods (like flood irrigation) and inadequate infrastructure for rainwater harvesting (collecting and storing rainwater to recharge groundwater) contribute heavily to the problem.

4. Describe the concept of 'NATURAL RESOURCE CURSE' with suitable examples.

- a. According to this concept, nations that possess abundant quantities of a single valuable resource often experience slower economic development, higher poverty, and greater corruption than countries with fewer natural resources.
- b. This happens because governments and industries rely too heavily on one resource and neglect sectors like education, manufacturing, and democratic governance.
- c. Examples include Venezuela, where dependence on oil has led to economic instability, and Sierra Leone, where diamond wealth contributed to corruption and civil unrest.

5. Explain the principles of reduce ,reuse ,recycle and rethink with one example each.

Principles	Detailed Action	Examples of Action
1. Reduce	Decrease the amount of resources consumed.	Using energy-efficient LED bulbs; taking shorter showers; walking or cycling instead of using a vehicle, etc.
2. Reuse	Use items again for the same or a new purpose instead of discarding them.	Refilling a water bottle instead of buying a new one; using old newspapers for wrapping, etc.
3. Recycle	Processing used materials into new products, saving raw materials and energy.	Collecting waste paper, plastic, and glass to be melted down and reformed.
4. Rethink (The 4th R)	Considering the environmental impact of your choices before buying or doing something.	Choosing products with less packaging; opting for durable goods over disposable ones, etc.

***Choose & write any one example of your choice.**

6. What is sustainable development explain how it helps protect both present and future generations ?

Sustainable Development is a process of development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

It helps protect both present and future generations as it encourages :

- a. **Resource Efficiency:** It encourages the responsible use of resources (like water and energy), reducing waste and lowering costs.
- b. **Improved Quality of Life:** By reducing pollution and promoting healthy ecosystems, it ensures cleaner air, water, and better health for people living today.
- c. **Economic Stability:** It promotes “green” jobs and technologies that provide long-term financial security rather than short-term gains.
- d. **Resource Preservation:** By preventing overexploitation (e.g., stopping groundwater depletion), it ensures that essential minerals, fuels, and water remain available for children and grandchildren.
- e. **Equity:** It prevents the “Natural Resource Curse” by encouraging diversified economies.