Question 1 (Any Seven) [14 marks]

1. Define the terms: 'Ecology' and 'Ecosystem'.

Answer:

Ecology is the scientific study of relationships between living organisms and their environment. **Ecosystem** is a biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment functioning as a unit.

Table:

Term	Definition	Example
Ecology	Study of organism-environment relationships	Forest ecology
Ecosystem	Living and non-living components interaction	Pond ecosystem

• Biotic components: Living organisms in the system

• Abiotic components: Non-living factors like air, water, soil

Mnemonic: "Every Component Lives Together" (Ecology Creates Living Together)

2. Define the terms: 'Pollution' and 'Pollutant'.

Answer:

Pollution is the introduction of harmful substances into the environment causing adverse effects.

Pollutant is any substance that causes pollution when present in excessive amounts.

Table:

Term	Definition	Types
Pollution	Environmental contamination	Air, Water, Soil, Noise
Pollutant	Harmful substance	Physical, Chemical, Biological

• Primary pollutants: Directly emitted substances

• Secondary pollutants: Formed by reactions in atmosphere

Mnemonic: "Pollution Produces Problems" (Pollutants Produce Problems)

3. What is noise pollution? What is unit of intensity of sound?

Answer:

Noise pollution is unwanted or excessive sound that disrupts human activities and harms living beings. The unit of sound intensity is **decibel (dB)**.

Table:

Sound Level	Source	Effect
30-40 dB	Library	Comfortable
60-70 dB	Traffic	Annoying
90+ dB	Industry	Harmful

• Threshold of hearing: 0 dB

• Threshold of pain: 120 dB

Mnemonic: "Decibels Determine Damage" (dB Determines Damage)

4. What is solid waste management? Give its objectives.

Answer:

Solid waste management is systematic handling of waste from generation to final disposal to minimize environmental impact and protect public health.

Objectives:

• Public health protection: Prevent disease transmission

• Environmental protection: Reduce pollution and contamination

• **Resource recovery**: Recycle and reuse materials

• Cost effectiveness: Economic waste handling

Mnemonic: "People Expect Resource Conservation" (Protection, Environment, Resource, Cost)

5. Enlist types of solar cells.

Answer:

Solar cells convert sunlight directly into electricity through photovoltaic effect.

Table:

Туре	Efficiency	Cost	Application
Monocrystalline	15-20%	High	Residential
Polycrystalline	13-16%	Medium	Commercial
Thin Film	7-13%	Low	Large scale

• Silicon-based: Most common type

• Non-silicon: Emerging technologies

Mnemonic: "Most People Think" (Mono, Poly, Thin-film)

6. What is climate change?

Answer:

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in global temperatures and weather patterns, primarily caused by human activities and greenhouse gas emissions.

Causes:

• Greenhouse gases: CO₂, CH₄, N₂O emissions

• **Deforestation**: Reduced carbon absorption

• Industrial activities: Fossil fuel burning

Effects:

Rising temperatures: Global warming

• Sea level rise: Melting ice caps

Mnemonic: "Change Creates Consequences" (Climate Change Creates Consequences)

7. What is C.F.C?

Answer:

CFC (Chlorofluorocarbon) are synthetic compounds containing carbon, fluorine, and chlorine atoms, previously used in refrigeration and aerosols.

Properties:

• Ozone depleting: Destroys stratospheric ozone

• Greenhouse gas: Contributes to global warming

• Stable compounds: Long atmospheric lifetime

• Montreal Protocol: International ban agreement

Mnemonic: "Chlorine Fluorine Carbon" (CFC components)

8. Give advantages of ISO-14000.

Answer:

ISO 14000 is international standard for environmental management systems.

Advantages:

• Environmental compliance: Meet legal requirements

• Cost reduction: Efficient resource use

• Market advantage: Enhanced company image

• Risk management: Prevent environmental incidents

Table:

Benefit	Impact	Result
Compliance	Legal safety	Avoid penalties
Efficiency	Resource saving	Cost reduction
Image	Market position	Competitive advantage

Mnemonic: "Companies Gain Market Recognition" (Compliance, Cost, Market, Risk)

9. Enlist various Acts related to environment in India.

Answer:

India has comprehensive environmental legislation framework.

Major Acts:

- Air Act (1981): Air pollution control
- Water Act (1974): Water pollution prevention
- Environment Protection Act (1986): Comprehensive environmental law
- Wildlife Protection Act (1972): Biodiversity conservation
- Forest Conservation Act (1980): Forest protection

Mnemonic: "All Water Environments Wildlife Forests" (AWEWF)

10. Enlist various methods of rainwater harvesting.

Answer:

Rainwater harvesting collects and stores rainwater for future use.

Methods:

- Rooftop harvesting: Direct collection from roofs
- Surface runoff harvesting: From ground surfaces
- Recharge pits: Groundwater recharging
- Check dams: Stream water collection

Table:

Method	Application	Benefit
Rooftop	Urban areas	Direct use
Surface	Rural areas	Large volume
Recharge	Water table	Groundwater

Mnemonic: "Roofs Surface Recharge Check" (RSRC)

Question 2(a) [3 marks]

Write short note on: Food chain.

Answer:

Food chain represents the flow of energy and nutrients through different trophic levels in an ecosystem.



Energy transfer: Only 10% passes to next level

• Biomass pyramid: Decreases at higher levels

Mnemonic: "Plants Provide Primary Power" (Producer to Predator Path)

OR

Explain factors affecting ecosystem.

Answer:

Ecosystems are influenced by various biotic and abiotic factors.

Factors:

• Climate factors: Temperature, rainfall, humidity

• Soil factors: pH, nutrients, texture

• Biotic factors: Species interactions, population density

• Human factors: Pollution, habitat destruction

Table:

Factor Type	Components	Impact
Abiotic	Climate, Soil	Habitat conditions
Biotic	Organisms	Species interactions
Anthropogenic	Human activities	Ecosystem disruption

Mnemonic: "Climate Soil Biology Humans" (CSBH)

Question 2(b) [3 marks]

Write short note on: Virtual water

Answer:

Virtual water is the hidden water used in production of goods and services, representing total water consumption in supply chain.

Examples:

• 1 kg wheat: 1,300 liters virtual water

• 1 kg beef: 15,400 liters virtual water

• 1 cotton t-shirt: 2,700 liters virtual water

• Water footprint: Total virtual water consumption

• Trade implications: Water-rich countries export virtual water

Mnemonic: "Virtual Water Worldwide" (VWW)

OR

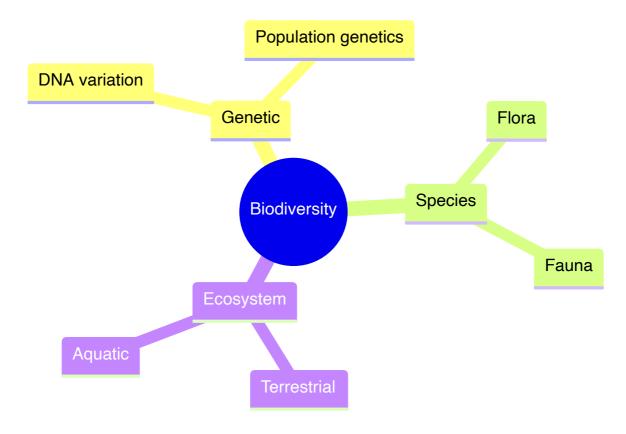
What is biodiversity? Give its types.

Answer:

Biodiversity is the variety of life forms at genetic, species, and ecosystem levels on Earth.

Types:

- Genetic diversity: Variation within species
- Species diversity: Number of different species
- **Ecosystem diversity**: Variety of habitats and communities



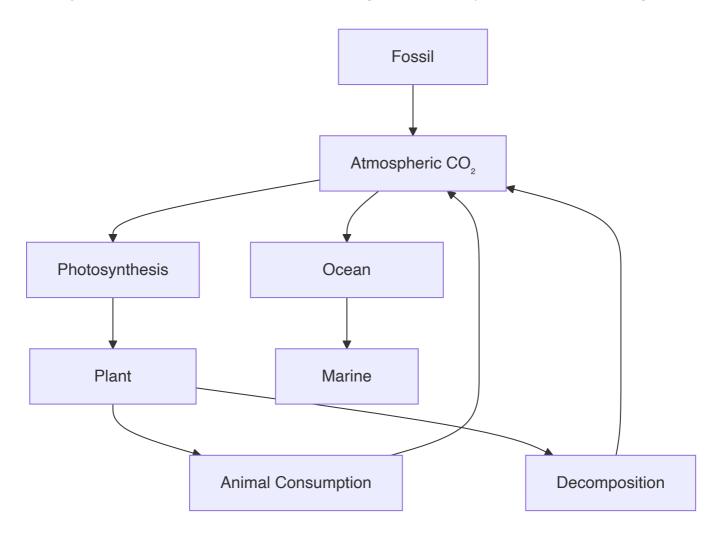
Mnemonic: "Genes Species Ecosystems" (GSE)

Question 2(c) [4 marks]

Explain: Carbon cycle

Answer:

Carbon cycle describes the movement of carbon through Earth's atmosphere, land, water, and organisms.



Processes:

- Photosynthesis: CO₂ absorption by plants
- **Respiration**: CO₂ release by organisms
- **Decomposition**: Carbon return to atmosphere
- Ocean exchange: CO₂ dissolution in seawater

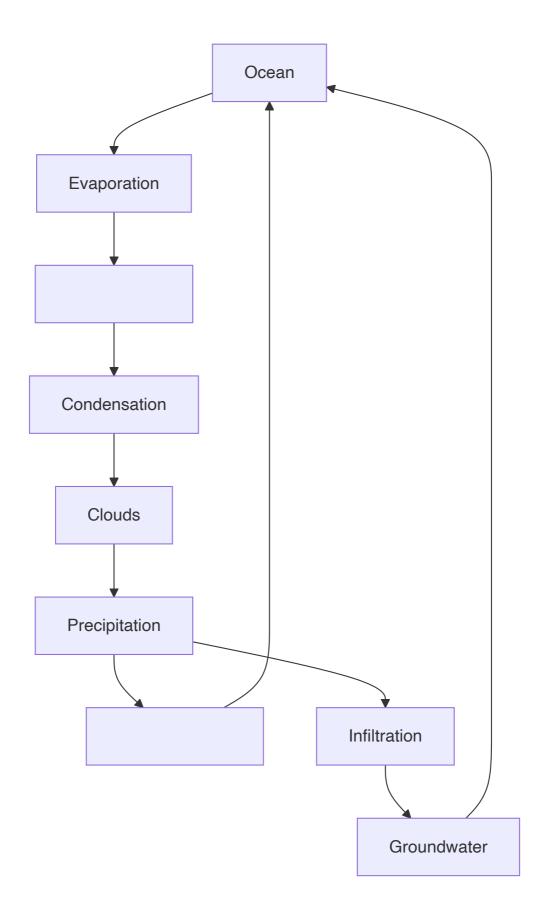
Mnemonic: "Plants Breathe, Die, Ocean" (PBDO)

OR

Draw and explain the hydrologic cycle

Answer:

Hydrologic cycle is the continuous movement of water through atmosphere, land, and oceans.



Processes:

- **Evaporation**: Water to vapor conversion
- Condensation: Vapor to liquid conversion
- **Precipitation**: Rain, snow formation

• Infiltration: Groundwater recharge

Mnemonic: "Every Cloud Produces Rain" (ECPR)

Question 2(d) [4 marks]

Enlist equipments used to control air pollution and explain any one.

Answer:

Air pollution control equipment removes pollutants from industrial emissions.

Equipment List:

• Cyclone separators: Particulate removal

• Electrostatic precipitators: Fine particle collection

• Bag filters: Fabric filtration

• Scrubbers: Gas absorption

Electrostatic Precipitator:

• Charging: Particles acquire electric charge

• Collection: Charged particles attracted to plates

• Efficiency: 99% removal of fine particles

Mnemonic: "Charge Collect Clean" (CCC)

OR

Enlist the types of environmental pollution and give the effects of noise pollution

Answer:

Environmental pollution types:

• Air pollution: Atmospheric contamination

• Water pollution: Aquatic contamination

• Soil pollution: Land contamination

• Noise pollution: Sound contamination

Noise Pollution Effects:

• Health effects: Hearing loss, stress, hypertension

• Psychological effects: Irritation, sleep disturbance

• Performance effects: Reduced concentration, productivity

• Communication effects: Speech interference

Table:

Effect Type	Symptoms	Impact
Physical	Hearing damage	Permanent loss
Mental	Stress, anxiety	Health issues
Social	Communication problems	Relationship strain

Mnemonic: "Air Water Soil Sound" (AWSS)

Question 3(a) [3 marks]

What is e-waste? Give effects of e-waste on environment and humans.

Answer:

E-waste (Electronic waste) consists of discarded electrical and electronic devices containing hazardous materials.

Environmental Effects:

• Soil contamination: Heavy metals leaching

• Water pollution: Toxic chemical runoff

• Air pollution: Burning releases toxic fumes

Human Effects:

• Health hazards: Lead, mercury poisoning

• **Respiratory problems**: Toxic gas inhalation

• Skin disorders: Direct contact with chemicals

Table:

Component	Hazard	Impact
Lead	Neurotoxin	Brain damage
Mercury	Toxic metal	Kidney damage
Cadmium	Carcinogen	Cancer risk

Mnemonic: "Electronic Equipment Endangers Everyone" (E4)

OR

What is plastic waste? Give effects of plastic waste.

Answer:

Plastic waste consists of discarded plastic materials that persist in environment due to non-biodegradable nature.

Effects:

- Marine pollution: Ocean plastic accumulation
- Wildlife impact: Entanglement, ingestion by animals
- Soil degradation: Reduced fertility and water infiltration
- Human health: Microplastics in food chain

Categories:

- Single-use plastics: Bags, bottles, straws
- Packaging waste: Food containers, wrappings
- Industrial plastic: Manufacturing waste

Mnemonic: "Plastic Persists, Problems Persist" (PPPP)

Question 3(b) [3 marks]

Give main sources of solid waste.

Answer:

Solid waste originates from various human activities and natural processes.

Sources:

- Residential: Household garbage, food waste
- Commercial: Office waste, packaging materials
- Industrial: Manufacturing waste, chemicals
- Agricultural: Crop residues, animal waste
- Municipal: Street sweeping, park maintenance

Table:

Source	Waste Type	Management
Domestic	Organic, Plastic	Collection
Industrial	Hazardous, Non-hazardous	Treatment
Agricultural	Biodegradable	Composting

Mnemonic: "Residential Commercial Industrial Agricultural Municipal" (RCIAM)

OR

Enlist various methods of solid waste disposal and explain any one.

Answer:

Disposal Methods:

• Landfilling: Controlled waste burial

• Incineration: Waste burning with energy recovery

• Composting: Organic waste decomposition

• Recycling: Material recovery and reuse

Sanitary Landfill:



• Design: Engineered system with liners

• **Operation**: Daily cover, compaction

• Environmental protection: Leachate and gas control

Mnemonic: "Land Incinerate Compost Recycle" (LICR)

Question 3(c) [4 marks]

Explain the working of Liquid Flat Plate Collector with a neat sketch.

Answer:

Liquid Flat Plate Collector converts solar radiation into thermal energy for heating water.

```
Glass cover
+========+
| ~~~~~~~~~ | Air gap
+=======+
| ||||||||| | Absorber plate (black)
| [------] | Fluid tubes
+=========+
| Insulation | Back insulation
+========+
^ ^
Cold water Hot water
inlet outlet
```

Working:

• Solar absorption: Black absorber plate captures solar energy

• Heat transfer: Absorbed heat transfers to flowing liquid

• Circulation: Heated liquid rises, cool liquid enters

• Insulation: Minimizes heat losses

Components:

• Transparent cover: Reduces convection losses

• Absorber plate: Maximum solar absorption

• Heat transfer fluid: Water or antifreeze solution

Mnemonic: "Solar Absorption Creates Heat Transfer" (SACHT)

OR

Write short note on solar pond

Answer:

Solar pond is a pool of saltwater that acts as both solar collector and thermal storage system.

Structure:

• **Upper zone**: Low salt concentration

• Middle zone: Increasing salt gradient

• Lower zone: High salt concentration

Working:

• Density gradient: Prevents convection mixing

• Heat storage: Bottom layer stores thermal energy

• Temperature: Can reach 70-85°C at bottom

Applications:

• Power generation: Steam production

• Industrial heating: Process heat supply

• **Desalination**: Water purification

Mnemonic: "Salt Stores Solar Thermal" (SSST)

Question 3(d) [4 marks]

Explain Savonious wind mill with a neat sketch.

Answer:

Savonius wind turbine is a vertical axis wind turbine with S-shaped rotor blades.

Working:

• Drag principle: Wind creates differential drag on blades

• Rotation: S-shape causes continuous rotation

• Self-starting: Starts at low wind speeds

• Vertical axis: Independent of wind direction

Advantages:

• Simple design: Low maintenance requirements

• Low noise: Quiet operation

• All wind directions: Omnidirectional capability

Disadvantages:

• Lower efficiency: 20-30% compared to HAWT

• Space requirement: Larger area needed

Mnemonic: "S-Shape Starts Slowly" (SSS)

OR

Give the comparison between Horizontal Axis and Vertical Axis wind mills.

Answer:

Wind turbines are classified based on rotor axis orientation.

Comparison Table:

Parameter	Horizontal Axis (HAWT)	Vertical Axis (VAWT)
Efficiency	35-45%	20-30%
Wind direction	Must face wind	Any direction
Installation	Tower required	Ground level possible
Maintenance	Difficult access	Easy access
Noise	Higher	Lower
Cost	Higher	Lower

HAWT Features:

• Upwind design: Rotor faces wind

• Pitch control: Blade angle adjustment

• Yaw system: Wind direction tracking

VAWT Features:

• Omnidirectional: No wind tracking needed

• Ground installation: Easier maintenance

• Lower wind speeds: Better performance

Mnemonic: "Horizontal High, Vertical Versatile" (HHVV)

Question 4(a) [3 marks]

Give effects of climate change.

Answer:

Climate change causes widespread environmental and socio-economic impacts globally.

Environmental Effects:

• Temperature rise: Global average increase

• Sea level rise: Thermal expansion and ice melting

• Weather extremes: Intense storms, droughts, floods

• Ecosystem shifts: Species migration and extinction

Socio-economic Effects:

• Agricultural impact: Crop yield changes

• Water resources: Availability and quality issues

• Human health: Heat stress, disease spread

• Economic losses: Infrastructure damage

Table:

Impact Category	Examples	Severity
Environmental	Melting glaciers	High
Agricultural	Crop failure	Medium
Health	Heat waves	High

Mnemonic: "Temperature Sea Weather Ecosystem" (TSWE)

OR

Write a short note on Green House gases.

Answer:

Greenhouse gases trap heat in Earth's atmosphere, causing global warming through greenhouse effect.

Major Greenhouse Gases:

• Carbon dioxide (CO₂): 76% of emissions

• Methane (CH₄): 16% of emissions

• Nitrous oxide (N₂O): 6% of emissions

• Fluorinated gases: 2% of emissions

Sources:

• CO₂: Fossil fuel burning, deforestation

• **CH**₄: Agriculture, landfills, livestock

• N₂O: Fertilizers, fossil fuel combustion

Global Warming Potential:

• CO₂: Reference (GWP = 1)

• **CH**₄: 25 times CO₂

• N₂O: 298 times CO₂

Mnemonic: "Carbon Methane Nitrous Fluorine" (CMNF)

Question 4(b) [4 marks]

Explain climate change Management.

Answer:

Climate change management involves strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate impacts.

Mitigation Strategies:

- Renewable energy: Solar, wind, hydroelectric power
- Energy efficiency: Improved building designs, LED lighting
- Carbon sequestration: Forest conservation, tree planting
- Sustainable transport: Electric vehicles, public transport

Adaptation Strategies:

- Infrastructure resilience: Flood defenses, drought-resistant crops
- Water management: Rainwater harvesting, efficient irrigation
- Coastal protection: Sea walls, mangrove restoration
- Emergency preparedness: Early warning systems

Policy Measures:

- Carbon pricing: Tax on emissions
- Renewable energy targets: Clean energy goals
- Building codes: Energy efficiency standards

Mnemonic: "Mitigation Adaptation Policy" (MAP)

OR

Give effects of ozone layer depletion.

Answer:

Ozone layer depletion reduces stratospheric ozone, allowing harmful UV radiation to reach Earth.

Effects on Humans:

- Skin cancer: Increased UV-B radiation exposure
- Eye cataracts: UV damage to eye lens
- Immune suppression: Weakened immune system
- Premature aging: Skin damage acceleration

Effects on Environment:

- Crop damage: Reduced agricultural productivity
- Marine ecosystem: Phytoplankton reduction
- Material degradation: Plastic and rubber damage

• Climate change: Ozone as greenhouse gas

Table:

UV Type	Wavelength	Effect
UV-A	320-400 nm	Skin aging
UV-B	280-320 nm	Sunburn, cancer
UV-C	200-280 nm	Blocked by ozone

Mnemonic: "Skin Eyes Immunity Climate" (SEIC)

Question 4(c) [7 marks]

Explain biogas plant with sketch.

Answer:

Biogas plant produces methane-rich gas through anaerobic digestion of organic waste.

Components:

- **Digester tank**: Anaerobic fermentation chamber
- Gas dome: Biogas collection and storage
- Inlet pipe: Waste material feeding
- Outlet pipe: Digested slurry removal

Process:

- Hydrolysis: Complex organics break down
- Acidogenesis: Acid-forming bacteria action

• Methanogenesis: Methane-producing bacteria

• Gas production: 50-70% methane, 30-40% CO₂

Operating Conditions:

• **Temperature**: 30-40°C optimal

• **pH**: 6.8-7.2 range

• Retention time: 15-30 days

• **C:N ratio**: 20-30:1 optimal

Applications:

• Cooking fuel: Household energy needs

• Lighting: Gas lamp illumination

• Electricity: Generator power

• Fertilizer: Nutrient-rich slurry

Advantages:

Renewable energy: Sustainable fuel source

• Waste management: Organic waste utilization

• Environmental benefits: Reduced methane emissions

• Economic benefits: Cost savings on fuel

Mnemonic: "Biogas Benefits: Renewable Waste Environment Economy" (BRWEE)

Question 5(a) [4 marks]

Write short note on global warming.

Answer:

Global warming refers to long-term increase in Earth's average surface temperature due to human activities.

Causes:

Greenhouse gases: CO₂, CH₄, N₂O emissions

• **Deforestation**: Reduced carbon absorption

• Industrial activities: Fossil fuel combustion

• Transportation: Vehicle emissions

Effects:

• Temperature rise: 1.1°C since pre-industrial times

• Ice melting: Arctic sea ice, glaciers shrinking

• Sea level rise: Coastal flooding threat

• Weather changes: Extreme events frequency

Evidence:

• **Temperature records**: Warmest years in recent decades

• Ice core data: Historical CO₂ levels

• Satellite measurements: Global temperature monitoring

Solutions:

• Renewable energy: Clean power sources

• Energy efficiency: Reduced consumption

• Carbon capture: Technology development

• International cooperation: Paris Agreement

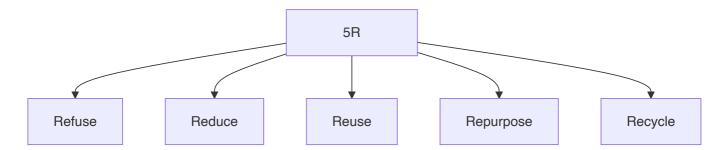
Mnemonic: "Greenhouse Gases Generate Global Change" (GGGC)

Question 5(b) [4 marks]

Explain 5R concept.

Answer:

5R concept is waste management hierarchy for sustainable resource utilization.



The 5 R's:

1. Refuse:

• Avoid unnecessary items: Say no to single-use products

• Examples: Plastic bags, straws, excessive packaging

2. Reduce:

• Minimize consumption: Use less resources

• **Examples**: Energy conservation, water saving

3. Reuse:

• Multiple use: Extend product life

• **Examples**: Glass jars as containers, paper both sides

4. Repurpose:

- **Creative reuse**: New function for old items
- Examples: Tire planters, bottle bird feeders

5. Recycle:

- Material recovery: Process into new products
- Examples: Paper, plastic, metal recycling

Benefits:

- Waste reduction: Less landfill burden
- **Resource conservation**: Natural resource preservation
- Cost savings: Economic benefits
- Environmental protection: Pollution reduction

Mnemonic: "Refuse Reduce Reuse Repurpose Recycle" (R5)

Question 5(c) [3 marks]

Explain the benefits of Green building.

Answer

Green building incorporates sustainable design and construction practices for environmental and human benefits.

Environmental Benefits:

- Energy efficiency: Reduced power consumption
- Water conservation: Efficient water systems
- Waste reduction: Construction and operational waste minimization

Economic Benefits:

- Operating cost savings: Lower utility bills
- Increased property value: Market premium
- Tax incentives: Government rebates

Health Benefits:

- Indoor air quality: Better ventilation systems
- Natural lighting: Improved occupant comfort
- Toxic material reduction: Healthier environment

Table:

Benefit Type	Examples	Impact
Environmental	Energy saving	30-50% reduction
Economic	Cost savings	20% operating costs
Health	Air quality	Productivity increase

Mnemonic: "Green Buildings Give Environmental Economic Health" (GBEEH)

Question 5(d) [3 marks]

Enlist various Acts related to environment in India and explain any one.

Answer:

Environmental Acts in India:

- Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
- Environment Protection Act. 1986
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
- Biodiversity Act, 2002

Environment Protection Act, 1986:

Objectives:

- Comprehensive framework: Overall environmental protection
- **Pollution prevention**: Air, water, soil contamination control
- **Standard setting**: Environmental quality standards
- **Enforcement**: Penalties for violations

Powers:

- Central government authority: Environmental regulations
- Inspection rights: Industrial facilities monitoring
- Closure orders: Non-compliant industries
- Emergency measures: Environmental hazards response

Significance:

- Umbrella legislation: Covers all environmental aspects
- Post-Bhopal disaster: Response to industrial accidents

Mnemonic: "Water Air Environment Wildlife Forest Biodiversity" (WAEWFB)