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English Questions for CLAT Exam

CLAT English Quiz 27

Directions: Read the passage and answer the questions that follow:

Paragraph 1: India is blessed with an extraordinary richness of life. A myriad of unusual and exquisite species occur in the countless ecosystems spread across our vast lands, rivers and oceans. Woven into this rich fabric of biodiversity is a stunningly vibrant and colorful tapestry of peoples, cultures and traditions. This unique bio-cultural tapestry has been resilient to change for centuries, but with the unleashing of unprecedented economic and environmental forces, it is now subject to increasing wear and tear. Ultimately, these forces could even destroy our tapestry of life, cultures and traditions — and in the process, ourselves.

Paragraph 2: Biologists all over the world have been documenting the ongoing loss of life forms. Modern extinction rates are more than a thousand times greater than the rates of the geological past. We have entered what scientists are calling the Anthropocene era — a new period in earth's history, when humans have begun to impact our environment at the global scale. We have seen our forests degrade and diminish, our rivers vanish, and our air become unfit to breathe. We constantly talk about cleaning up the Ganga, as if it were the sole festering wound, but we overlook that the whole tapestry covering our body is slowly disintegrating. All life requires nurturing.

Paragraph 3: To protect life on earth, the famous American biologist E.O. Wilson has described an ambitious project he calls "Half-Earth". He calls for formally protecting 50% of the earth's land surface in order to conserve our rapidly disappearing natural heritage. Others have rightly argued that in the past conservation efforts have often disregarded issues of social justice and equity. Thus the goals of "Half-Earth" should not compromise the rights of indigenous people.

Paragraph 4: Clearly, we must do more to safeguard biodiversity and the ecosystem services that support all human endeavours. India's forest policy calls for forests to cover almost a third of the country, and if we include other natural systems such as grasslands and wetlands, the area to be protected could amount to almost 40%. In a populous country such as ours, that would be a huge achievement. Some areas could be fully protected while others might be managed by stakeholders for sustainable use and enrichment of biodiversity. We need a massive new effort to catalogue, map, and monitor life, using fundamentally different approaches. Current efforts to map India's

biodiversity are largely restricted to forestlands, while plans for species monitoring are even more inadequate. We have the digital tools and artificial intelligence today to efficiently catalogue, map, and monitor life's fabric in a manner never before attempted — and with the potential engagement of millions of students and citizens. This mapping effort would include not only all life, including cultures, ethnicities, and dialects, but also the use of biodiversity and its vulnerability to changes in land use and climate.

Paragraph 5: Cataloguing, mapping and monitoring life will give us a glimpse of what we have, and what is most vulnerable. But how do we reconcile the growing needs of society with the need to sustain our vanishing natural heritage? We still have only the most basic understanding of how society interacts with biodiversity, and how economic, social and political forces can erode the biodiversity that ultimately sustains us. We are just beginning to learn how myriad species interact to drive our ecosystems, and how these systems in turn maintain our soils, water and breathable air. Wild pollinators, the microbiota of soils, and the many enemies of agricultural pests — these and many other natural services underpin our agricultural productivity and mitigate climate change.

1. Which of the following is/are true with respect to the passage?

- I. Nowhere on Earth are natural and human systems tied together more inextricably than on the Indian subcontinent.
- II. Several non-government think tanks in the civil society sector have strong interdisciplinary programmes in environmental sustainability in India.
- III. It has been observed that conservation efforts have often focused on issues of social justice and equity.

- A. Only I
- B. Only III
- C. Only I and II
- D. None of the above

2. Which of the following is the main idea conveyed by paragraph 1?

- A. Life is a unique asset of our planet.
- B. India is the only nation to have a unique bio-cultural tapestry.
- C. The unique environmental and cultural mix in India has been static for centuries.
- D. Unparalleled economic forces are causing a lot of damage to India - a land of bio-cultural diversity.

3. Which of the following is/are example/s of the 'loss of life forms' mentioned in paragraph 2?

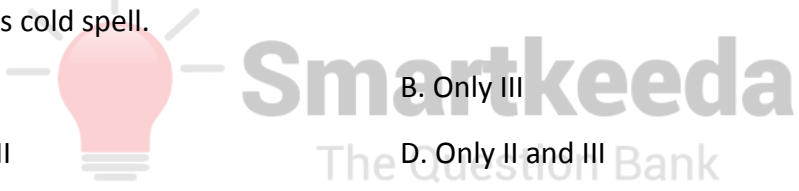
- I. Population of 40% of large mammals have declined.
- II. Huge number of whales dying due to ingesting of plastic bags.
- III. Natural habitats all over the world have shrunk.

- A. Only I
- B. Only II
- C. Only I and III
- D. All of the above

4. Which of the following is/are true with respect to the Anthropocene Era mentioned in the passage?

- I. Both marine and continental faunas are essentially modern but with many more large land mammals such as Mammoths etc.
- II. Human beings have started to have a huge impact on the Earth.
- III. It covers most of the latest period of repeated glaciation, up to and including the Younger Dryas cold spell.

- A. Only II
- B. Only III
- C. Only I and II
- D. Only II and III



5. As per the passage, what is meant by 'Half Earth'?

- A. It is when the capacity of Earth to sustain life would become half of what it was when it was formed.
- B. It is the time when half of Earth would become unsuitable for living and life would face mass extinction.
- C. It is a project which would involve protecting about half of Earth's land to conserve natural heritage.
- D. It is a project which would ensure the Oceans of the world are made habitable for humans in the foreseeable future.

6. As per the passage, what is/are some flaws in the current efforts to map India's biodiversity?

- I. They are mainly restricted to forestlands and other natural systems are not fully catered to.
- II. The monitoring of species is insufficient.

III. There is a lack of digital tools and artificial intelligence.

A. Only I

B. Only I and II

C. Only II and III

D. Only III

7. Why is it difficult to reconcile the needs of society with the need to sustain our natural heritage?

A. We do not yet possess an understanding of the intricacies of how species, biodiversity and society interact with each other.

B. Our institutions need to place far more emphasis on the scientific study of life at higher levels.

C. We lack a comprehensive inquiry into how our society is shaping as well as responding to changes in biodiversity.

D. In many of our academic institutions, the 'Life Sciences' are still restricted largely to the study of cells and molecules — life at microscopic and submicroscopic levels.



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The Question Bank

Correct Answers:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
D	D	D	A	C	B	A

Explanations:

1. Refer to: **'In the past conservation efforts have often disregarded issues of social justice and equity.** Thus the goals of "Half-Earth" should not compromise the rights of indigenous people.'

Statements I and II have not been mentioned in the passage anywhere while statement III is the opposite of what has been stated in the passage.

None of the statements are correct.

Hence, option D is correct.

2. Option A cannot be the main idea as the paragraph does not talk about 'life' as such.

Option B is incorrect as although only India is being talked about, it is not enough to conclude that it is the only nation to have a 'unique bio-cultural tapestry.'

Option C is incorrect as the paragraph merely mentions that the bio-cultural diversity has been *resilient* to changes. Also, it is not the main idea expressed.

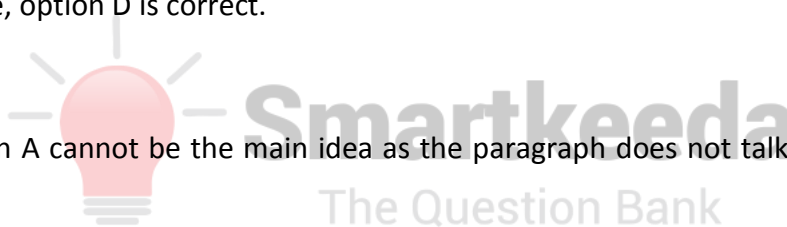
Option D is correct. Here, the paragraph has been neatly summarized by picking up the main points of India being a rich nation in terms of ecology and culture but the same being affected by relentless economic forces.

Hence, option D is correct.

3. All the statements convey the fact that 'life forms' are suffering and decreasing due to human activities.

III is correct as it directly causes extinction of species.

Hence, option D is correct.



4. Refer to: 'We have entered what scientists are calling the **Anthropocene era — a new period in earth's history, when humans have begun to impact our environment at the global scale.**'

Only II is correct while I and III have not been mentioned in the passage.

Hence, option A is correct.

5. Refer to: 'To protect life on earth, the famous American biologist E.O. Wilson has described an ambitious project he calls "**Half-Earth**". **He calls for formally protecting 50% of the earth's land surface in order to conserve our rapidly disappearing natural heritage.**'

Out of all the options, option C is the best fit. The rest are clearly incorrect.

Hence, option C is correct.

6. Refer to: 'Current efforts to map India's biodiversity are **largely restricted to forestlands, while plans for species monitoring are even more inadequate. We have the digital tools and artificial intelligence today to efficiently catalogue, map, and monitor life's fabric** in a manner never before attempted — and with the potential engagement of millions of students and citizens.'

As per the highlighted fragments, only I and II can be seen. III is the opposite of what the passage mentions and is incorrect.

Hence, option B is correct.

7. Refer to: 'But how do we reconcile the growing needs of society with the need to sustain our vanishing natural heritage? We still have only the most basic understanding of how society interacts with biodiversity, and how economic, social and political forces can erode the biodiversity that ultimately sustains us. **We are just beginning to learn how myriad species interact to drive our ecosystems, and how these systems in turn maintain our soils, water and breathable air. Wild pollinators, the microbiota of soils, and the many enemies of agricultural pests — these and many other natural services underpin our agricultural productivity and mitigate climate change.**'

The entire highlighted fragment showcases that we do not have adequate understanding of how everything is correlated. Option A is the best fit here.

Option C is close but incorrect as it focuses more on society and how it changes with respect to biodiversity but does not answer why it is difficult to reconcile the needs of society with the need to sustain our natural heritage.

Hence, option A is correct.

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