



D.A.V. PUBLIC SCHOOL, NEW PANVEL

Plot No. 267, 268, Sector-10, New Panvel,
Navi Mumbai-410206 (Maharashtra).

Phone 022-27468211, 27482276, 27451793

E-mail – davnewpanvel@gmail.com www.davnewpanvel.com

WORKSHEET-6 COMPREHENSION PASSAGES

Sub : English Core
Class XII

READING SKILLS
Date .2021-22

Read the following passages carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Factual Unseen Passage - 6

A vast-blanket of pollution stretching across South Asia is cutting down sunlight by 10 per cent over India, damaging agriculture, modifying rainfall patterns and putting hundreds of thousands of people at risk, according to a new study. The startling findings also indicate that the spectacular economic growth seen here earlier may soon falter as a result of this pollution. The report also says that the haze caused by pollution might be reducing winter rice harvests by as much as 10 per cent.

“Acids in the haze may, by falling as acid rain, have the potential to damage crops and trees. Ash falling on leaves can aggravate the impacts of reduced sunlight on Earth’s surface. The pollution that is forming the haze could be leading to several hundreds of thousands of premature deaths as a result of higher levels of respiratory diseases”, it said. Results from seven cities in India alone, including Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Kolkata, estimate that air pollution was annually responsible for 24000 premature deaths in the early 1990s. By the mid 1990s they resulted in an estimated 37000 premature fatalities. “The haze has cut down sunlight over India by 10 per cent (so far) – a huge amount! As a repercussion, the North West of India is drying up”, Professor V Ramanathan said when asked specifically about the impact of the haze over India. Stating that sunlight was going down every year, he said, “We are still in an early stage of understanding the impact of the haze.”

Asked whether the current drought in most parts of India after over a decade of good monsoons was owing to the haze, he said, “It was too early to reach a conclusion. If the drought persists for about four to five years, then we should start suspecting that it may be because of the haze.”

India, China and Indonesia are the worst affected owing to their population density, economic growth and depleting forest cover. The preliminary results indicate that the build up of haze, a mass of ash, acids, aerosols and other particles, is disrupting weather systems, including rainfall and wind patterns and triggering droughts in western parts of the Asian Continent. The concern is that the regional and global impacts of the haze are set to intensify over the next 30 years as the population of the Asian region rises to an estimated five billion people.

Questions (1.1) On the basis of your reading of the Passage, answer the following Questions briefly.

- (i) How has the haze over South Asia impacted agriculture?
- (ii) What were the levels of premature deaths estimated in seven major cities during the 1990s due to respiratory diseases caused by the haze?
- (iii) Why is Professor V Ramanathan not giving a definite answer about the effects of the haze?
- (iv) What did he say about the effect of the haze on the current drought in most parts of India?
- (v) Which countries are most affected by the haze and why?
- (vi) Why is there overall concern for Asia over the next 30 years?

Question (1.2) On the basis of your reading of the Passage, complete the statements given below by choosing the most appropriate option:

(i) The preliminary results indicated by the build up of haze are that it is

- (a) disrupting rainfall and wind patterns
- (b) triggering droughts in West Asia
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) Neither (a) nor (b)

(ii) The haze consists of

- (a) ash, acids, aerosols and other particles
- (b) pollution products and aerosols
- (c) acid rain and ash
- (d) None of these

(iii) An antonym of 'predictable' in paragraph 1 is

- (a) damaging
- (b) shocking
- (c) startling
- (d) stretching

(iv) In paragraph 2 the word 'premature' means the same as.

- (a) impulsive
- (b) rash
- (c) unseasonable
- (d) untimely

(v) A synonym of 'particularly' in paragraph 2 is

- (a) strictly
- (b) specifically
- (c) individually
- (d) definitely

(vi) A synonym of 'disturbing' in paragraph 4 is

- (a) disrupting
- (b) depleting
- (c) triggering
- (d) interrupting
