

# Class 11th English Hornbill Chapter 5 The Ailing Planet: The Green Movement's Role Question Answers Gujarat Board

## Understanding the Text

**Question 1. Locate the lines in the text that support the title 'The Ailing Planet'.**

Answer:

**The lines that support the title of the chapter are given below:**

1. The earth's vital signs reveal a patient in declining health.
2. Are we to leave our successors a scorched planet of advancing deserts, impoverished landscapes and ailing environment?
3. .... the environment has deteriorated so badly that it is 'critical' in many of the eighty- eight countries investigated.

**Question 2. What does' the notice 'The world's most dangerous animal' at a cage in the zoo at Lusaka, Zambia, signify?**

Answer:

The notice signifies that there is depletion of resources and deterioration of environment. Man is responsible for this and his own survival is threatened.

**Question 3. How are the earth's principal biological systems being depleted?**

Answer:

There are four principal biological systems of the earth. These systems are fisheries, forests, grasslands and croplands. However, due to the increasing demand of human beings to such an 'unsustainable' extent, the productivity of these systems is being hampered. The excessive demand results in deterioration and depletion of these resources. A country where protein is consumed on a large scale, overfishing is common, which leads to the collapse of fisheries in that area. Grasslands have been turned into deserts and production of crops is decreasing. The forests are destroyed in large proportions to obtain firewood. Depletion of tropical forests has also led to the extinction of several species.

**Question 4. Why does the author aver that the growth of world population is one of the strongest factors distorting the future of human society?**

Answer:

Over-population is one of the strongest factors responsible for a nation's poverty and unemployment. It disturbs the earth's principal biological systems leading to degradation of environment. The author highlights the problem of over-population by pointing out the mental setup of the poor who feel more children means more workers to earn money. They do not realise that more children only means more unemployed people.

He argues that development is the best contraceptive, which includes spread of education, improvement of health and rise in income. Spread of education leads to awareness among people, which in turn results in a fall in the 'fertility' rate. The author makes a comment



which emphasises the never ending circle of population and poverty by asserting that “The choice is really between control of population and the perpetuation of poverty.”

### **Talking about the Text**

**Discuss in groups of four:**

#### **Question 1. Laws are never respected not enforced in India.**

Answer:

India, the biggest democracy in the world, is condemned for its easy attitude towards laws. Laws are constituted but never respected nor enforced in our country. For instance, the Indian Constitution mentions that casteism, untouchability and bonded labour shall be abolished; however, these evils flourish barefacedly even today. The author points out that Article 48-A of the Indian Constitution, propounds that “the State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country”. However, little is done in favour of this.

What we see is a near “catastrophic depletion” of forests’ over the last four decades. Forests are disappearing over the decades at the rate of 3.7 million acres a year. Areas that are officially designated as forest land, in reality, are treeless. The actual loss of forests is eight times the rate pointed by the government statistics.

#### **Question 2. “Are we to leave our successors a scorched planet of advancing deserts, impoverished landscapes and an ailing environment?”**

Answer:

As we learn in the text, the first Brandt Report raised the above mentioned question about the deteriorating condition of the planet. Earth is like a ‘patient in declining health’. The depletion of forests, grasslands, fisheries and croplands are the result of excessive demand for resources. Over-population has led to a severe strain on the health of our planet. We must realise soon that in this ‘Era of Responsibility’ it is solely our duty to preserve our planet. We must realise that the earth belongs as much to the future generation as much to us. Rather making it our property, we should do our best to preserve it for the generations we have ‘borrowed it from’.

#### **Question 3. “We have not inherited this earth from our forefathers; we have borrowed it from our children.”**

Answer:

Over the decades, a change has come in the perception of the people in respect to the planet. The human’ perception has shifted to a ‘holistic and ecological view of the world’. Earth is a living organisms that has limited resources. These resources will not last forever. The earth has its metabolic needs that require to be preserved. The need of the hour is ‘sustainable development’ which propounds that need of meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising with those of future generations. The present problems are not necessarily fatal for us but they are a ‘passport for future’. This is the ‘Era of



Responsibility' that calls for a responsible action from us. We must realise that the earth belongs as much to the future generation as much it belongs to us.

**Question 4. The problems of over-population that directly affect our everyday life.**

Answer:

Over-population leads to the issues of poverty and unemployment. The vicious circle of population and poverty will continue unless the root cause, i.e., population is taken care of. It hampers the development of a country. It leads to the consumption of the natural resources at a much faster rate. The fossils consumed, the resources depleted, the forests, cleared, the heat produced, the global warming caused are all the repercussions of the fast growing population.

**Thinking about Language**

The phrase 'inter alia' meaning 'among other things' is one of the many Latin expressions commonly used in English. Find out what these Latin phrases mean.

- (1) prima facie
- (2) ad hoc
- (3) in camera
- (4) ad infinitum
- (5) mutatis mutandis
- (6) caveat
- (7) tabula rasa

Answer:

- (1) prima facie means 'at first sight, before close inspection'
- (2) ad hoc means 'for the specific purpose, case or situation at hand and for no other'
- (3) in camera means 'in secret, in private'.
- (4) ad infinitum means 'to infinity, having no end'
- (5) mutatis mutandis means 'changing (only) those things which needs to be changed', (only) the necessary changes having been made
- (6) caveat means 'a warning or caution'
- (7) tabula rasa means 'blank slate', 'without any prior experience or knowledge'

**Working with Words**

**Question 1. Locate the following words in the text and study their connotation:**

- (1) gripped the imagination of
- (2) dawned upon
- (3) ushered in
- (4) passed into current coin
- (5) passport of the future

Answer:

- (1) gripped the imagination of: received much attention
- (2) dawned upon: realised it for the first time

- (3) ushered in: began the new idea
- (4) passed into current coin: have been brought into use
- (5) passport of the future: a thing that makes something possible or enables one to achieve it.

**Question 2. The words 'grip', 'dawn', 'usher', 'coin', 'passport' have a literal as well as a figurative meaning. Write pairs of sentences using each word in the literal as well as figurative sense.**

Answer:

**(1) grip:**

- (a) She was excellent during the rock-climbing session. She has a good grip.
- (b) The movement of 'India Against Corruption' has gripped the minds of Indians.

**(2) dawn:**

- (a) The day dawned with a clear sky.
- (b) Suddenly, the idea dawned on him.

**(3) usher:**

- (a) The waiter ushered them to their seats.
- (b) The Green Movement ushered in a new era of awareness.

**(4) coin:**

- (a) I have ten coins of ₹ 5.
- (b) The term was coined by a famous philosopher.

**(5) passport:**

- (a) He has just got his passport made to visit his uncle in the USA.
- (b) Education is the passport to a bright future.

## Things to Do

**Question 1. Make posters to highlight the importance of the Green Movement.**

Answer:



**Question 2. Maintain a record of the trees cut down and the parks demolished in your area or any other act that violates the environment. Write to newspapers reporting on any such acts that disturb you.**

Answer:

271 Green Road,  
Silver City,  
20 March, 20XX

The Editor  
The National Herald  
New City,

Subject: Illegal felling of trees

Sir May I use the columns of your daily to draw the attention of the public and the authorities conce'rned towards an act that has caused severe violation of environment. The central park adjacent to Green Road had many tall and beautiful trees which added to its glory. Of late some people began to use it for hosting wedding parties or political functions. They caused much damage to the environment by damaging the plants, flowers, young trees and grass growing in the lawns as well as creating noise pollution through loudspeakers.

Yesterday, some enthusiastic members of the green club protested to the organiser of a political assembly against the misuse of the park and the untold harm to environment. To our surprise, we found that all the tall trees had been felled and cut down into logs overnight. We have lodged a complaint with the local police station. We appeal to you to publish this letter of protest against the illegal felling of trees with your comments and remind the authorities that it is the responsibility of the state to preserve healthy environment. I am confident that you will take up this cause.

Yours faithfully,  
Deepak / Deepika



# Class 11th English Hornbill Poem Chapter 4 Childhood

## Question Answers Gujarat Board

### Think Out

**Question 1. Identify the stanza that talks of each of the following: individuality rationalism hypocrisy**

Answer:

Individuality – Third stanza; Rationalism -First stanza; Hypocrisy – Second stanza

**Question 2. What according to the poem is involved in the process of growing up?**

Answer:

According to the poem, the process of growing up involves the attainment of mental maturity. A person is said to be grown up when he has become logical, rational and is able to build his own thoughts. A grown-up has the power to distinguish between reality and fantasy.

A grown-up individual understands the actions of others just as the poet recognises the hiatus between the preaching and the practice of the adults. He realises the hypocrisy and the double standards maintained by the adults. A mature individual also asserts his thoughts and opinions.

**Question 3. What is the poet's feeling towards childhood?**

Answer:

The poet does not appear to feel sad or upset at the loss of his childhood. He only seems to be puzzled at the disappearance of childhood and the arrival of adulthood. He expresses his confusion when he asks the questions 'When and Where did my childhood go'?

**Question 4. Which do you think are the most poetic lines? Why?**

Answer:

The lines that seem to be the most poetic are: 'It went to some forgotten place, That's hidden in an infant's face; That's all I know. These lines sum up beautifully the process of growth and the disappearance of a particular stage of life. These lines express metaphorically that an infant's innocent face hides many things behind its smiles. Perhaps the childhood also lies hidden somewhere in the child's consciousness.

