Natural Hazards and Disasters

Standard difficulty · 20 questions · 40 marks · Time: 37 minutes

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: ____ / 40

Write full answers in Sections B and C. Answers are on the last page — try every question first!

Section A — Choose the correct answer — 8 × 1 = 8 marks

1. Blizzards are classed as a hazard of type:
   (a) aquatic **(b)** biological **(c)** terrestrial **(d)** atmospheric

2. What is agricultural drought?
   (a) low soil moisture causing crop failure
   (b) a sudden shaking of the ground
   (c) too much rain in a short time
   (d) natural ecosystems lose productivity for want of water

3. In a drought, what is short in “trinkal”?
   (a) medicines **(b)** fuel wood **(c)** food grains **(d)** fodder

4. For landslides, which areas make up mining-related landslide areas?
   (a) Himalayan and north-eastern states except the Assam plains
   (b) young Himalayas, Andaman and Nicobar, steep rainy Western Ghats and Nilgiris
   (c) Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh
   (d) Spiti, the Aravali and rain-shadow parts of the Ghats and Deccan

5. Which of these is an atmospheric hazard?
   (a) flood **(b)** tsunami
   (c) avalanche **(d)** tropical cyclone

6. A district has 70 per cent of its gross cropped area under irrigation. How is it treated when drought-prone areas are marked?
   (a) counted as landslide-prone
   (b) excluded: over 30% of its gross cropped area is irrigated
   (c) counted as drought-prone if rainfall is poor
   (d) counted as flood-prone

7. The Indian plate moves about 1 cm a year towards the north and north-east. How many metres does it move in 4,200 years?
   (a) 43 m **(b)** 4,200 m **(c)** 42 m **(d)** 420 m

8. Maharashtra had a severe earthquake in 1967; a severe earthquake struck Maharashtra again in 1993. How many years apart were these?
   (a) 36 years **(b)** 27 years **(c)** 26 years **(d)** 23 years

Section B — Short answer — 8 × 2 = 16 marks

9. When does a hazard become a disaster?

10. Is each hazard atmospheric, terrestrial, aquatic or biological? (a) bird flu (b) tidal wave

11. What is each? (a) meteorological drought (b) agricultural drought

12. Which areas make up each landslide zone: (a) the safe areas (b) mining-related landslide areas

13. Give one effect of each and one way to reduce it: (a) floods (b) droughts

14. Which came first, and by how many years? (a) Maharashtra had a severe earthquake (1967) (b) a severe earthquake struck Maharashtra again (1993)

15. Suppose a state has 308,000 hectares of land, 35 per cent of it flood-prone. How many hectares is that? Name two human activities that make floods worse.

16. Areas with more than 30 per cent of their gross cropped area irrigated are excluded from the drought-prone category. Is each district included or excluded? (a) 35% irrigated (b) 28% irrigated

Section C — Longer answers — 4 × 4 = 16 marks

17. Identify the landslide-prone regions of India and suggest mitigation measures.

18. Match each with its areas: (a) the very high vulnerability zone (b) the high vulnerability zone (c) the safe areas. Choose from: young Himalayas, Andaman and Nicobar, steep rainy Western Ghats and Nilgiris; Himalayan and north-eastern states except the Assam plains; the plains of Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

19. A district of 35,000 sq km has 14 per cent of its gross cropped area irrigated. (a) Is it excluded from the drought-prone category? (b) Suppose 19 per cent of its area suffers drought in a year, as for India as a whole: how many sq km is that? (c) Suggest two long-term measures against drought.

20. Describe the effects of each and how to manage them: (a) floods (b) tsunamis

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Answer key

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Q	Answer	Working
1	**(d) atmospheric**	—
2	**(a) low soil moisture causing crop failure**	—
3	**(d) fodder**	—
4	**(c) Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh**	—
5	**(d) tropical cyclone**	—
6	**(b) excluded: over 30% of its gross cropped area is irrigated**	over 30% irrigated: excluded from the drought-prone category
7	**(c) 42 m**	4,200 cm ÷ 100
8	**(c) 26 years**	1993 − 1967 = 26
9	**When it strikes suddenly and causes large-scale death, loss of property and disruption beyond people's capacity to cope.**	—
10	**(a) biological (b) aquatic**	—
11	**(a) a long period of inadequate, badly spread rainfall (b) low soil moisture causing crop failure**	—
12	**(a) the plains of Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar (b) Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh**	—
13	**(a) crop loss and waterborne diseases; embankments and afforestation (b) crop failure and loss of cattle; rainwater harvesting**	—
14	**Maharashtra had a severe earthquake, by 26 years**	1993 − 1967
15	**107,800 hectares; e.g. deforestation and settling on floodplains (also blocking drainage channels).**	35% of 308,000
16	**(a) excluded (b) included**	over 30%: excluded
17	**Very high in the young Himalayas, Andaman and Nicobar, Western Ghats and Nilgiris and the north-east; restrict construction, farm only valleys and gentle slopes, plant trees, build bunds and use terrace farming.**	—

Q	Answer	Working
18	**(a) young Himalayas, Andaman and Nicobar, steep rainy Western Ghats and Nilgiris (b) Himalayan and north-eastern states except the Assam plains (c) the plains of Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar**	—
19	**(a) no, 30% or less is irrigated (b) 6,650 sq km (c) rainwater harvesting and drought-resistant crops (also finding groundwater, linking rivers).**	19% of 35,000
20	**(a) crop loss and waterborne diseases; embankments and afforestation (b) flooding of coasts; international warning systems**	—