

NPTEL MOOCs
Multiple choice questions
Assignment - Week XII

Answer the following multiple choice questions (1 marks each) 15x1

1. Which of the following can be used as another term for “shifting cultivation”?
 - a) Swiddening
 - b) Jhumming
 - c) Slash and burn
 - d) **All of the above**

2. The northeastern region of India occupies how many percentage of India’s geographical space?
 - a) 10%
 - b) 9%
 - c) **8%**
 - d) 7%

3. Agricultural practice such as jhumming / shifting cultivation is based on which mode of production?
 - a) Capitalism
 - b) Feudalism
 - c) **Asiatic mode of production**
 - d) Primitive communism

4. Agriculture practice and production system in the northeastern region of India highly depends upon the _____?
 - a) **Socio-cultural and religio-beliefs of the indigenous people**
 - b) Changes introduced as a result of the green revolution in India
 - c) India’s agricultural policies and development of technology
 - d) National economic policies like the Five Year Plans

5. Which of the following statement is true?

a) Terrace cultivation is the dominant farming system found in the northeast region of India

b) Jhumming in the northeast region is a complex system with wide variation that depends upon the ecological variation in the area and cultural diversity among various tribal communities.

c) Shifting cultivation is better known as “terrace cultivation” in the northeast region of India

d) Shifting cultivation is essentially a mono cropping system of farming/agriculture

6. Who propagated the idea that modern science should help the tribal economy without destroying it?

a) Jawarharlal Nerhu

b) Mahatma Gandhi

c) Verrier Elwin

d) Baden Powell

7. According to Gadgil and Guha, which is of the following is not a consequence due to degradation of forests?

a) Difficulty in maintaining law and order in the region

b) Shortage of land for swidden agriculturalists

c) Shortage of prey for hunters

d) Shortage of grazing areas for pastoralists

8. Which was the sole reason for economic exploitation of the forest areas in the subcontinent?

a) The colonial rulers were interested in generating revenue from agricultural expansion

b) Control over scarce resources leading to conflicts

c) Law and order problems

d) Rise in population

9. Who among the following suggests that swidden cultivation as a system of land use does minimal damage to the environment and can be successfully used as a rational system in marginal areas?

- a) Conklin (1957)
- b) Geertz (1963)
- c) Ramakrishnan (1993)
- d) All of the above

10. Which of the following is not true about the forest policies?

- a) The forest policy of the government of India, which has continued with the colonial legacy and the Indian Forest Act of 1848 was a major blow to many tribal groups who depended on the customary use of forests and its products.
- b) According to the National Forest Policy (1988) issued by the Government of India, one of the main reasons for the loss of forest cover in the hills is the spread of fire caused by jhum cultivation, which not only affects regeneration of catchments, but also wildlife speciesc)
- c) Shifting cultivation as a system of land use does minimal damage to the environment and can be successfully used as a rational system in marginal areas.
- d) National Forest Policy (1988) issued by the Government of India, new strategies for the development and rehabilitation of the tribal population and altering jhum practices.

11. Which of the following statement about shifting cultivation is/are true?

- a) The emphasis on modern methods of cultivation have not only led to labelling shifting cultivation as a primitive method used by indigenous people but also disregarding traditional knowledge systems and their capability of improving existing methods.
- b) Most government policies question the feasibility of shifting cultivation and urge ethnic minorities to undertake settled cultivation.
- c) Shifting cultivation is not only an age-old agricultural practice, but also intrinsically related to the culture and identity of those practicing it. Such an approach does not aim to make a profit from the agricultural surplus, judiciously used natural resources and forests.

d) All of the above

12. Scott's historical account spells out the reasons why most ethnic minorities in the uplands/hill regions of whom he collectively refers to as the "zomia", a term coined by Willem van Schendel does not include which of the following country?

- a) Thailand
- b) Cambodia
- c) Burma
- d) Bhutan

13. Who among the following is not associated with the study of shifting cultivation?

- a) Conklin (1957)
- b) Geertz (1963)
- c) McDurie-Ra (2011)
- d) Ramakrishnan (1993)

14. Which of the following is/are not true about shifting cultivation from the perspective of ecologists?

- a) Shifting cultivation has been considered by many as ecologically destructive. They are referred to as the scourge of forests and the practice of shifting cultivation is looked upon as a major cause of soil erosion.
- b) Shifting cultivation is also held responsible for causing floods in the plains since top soil erosion affects the valleys and results in sedimentation of river beds.
- c) The shortening of the jhum cycle (or shifting cultivation cycle) from around 20 to 30 years to about four to five years or even less, owing to the population pressure on land and other factors is held responsible for the land degradation in areas affected by shifting cultivation.
- d) According to this view shifting cultivation is the only practical way out from the inherent difficulties confronted in preparing a proper seedbed in steep slopes where any disturbance of the surface by hoeing and ploughing will result in washing away of the fertile top soil.

15. How has the Forest Act of India 1848 impacted the tribal communities who depended on the customary use of forests and its products?

a) The colonial rulers implemented a system of forestry management that conflicted with the traditional practices of forest dwellers, regarding shifting cultivation, which was intrinsic to the tribal way of living, as primitive and unremunerative.

b) Most of the policies stemmed from the policymakers' point of view, which regarded the tribes as primitive.

c) Certain groups were even termed savages and apes because of their different pigmentation, food habits (which often included human flesh) and other indicators of "animality".

d) All of the above