

FUNCTIONAL ENGLISH

UNIT-I- ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIOUSNESS

PART-1

On Killing a Tree

Answer the following:

1, Explain the theme of the poem “*On killing a tree*”.

“On killing a tree” is written by Gieve Patel. It tells us that only cutting the branches or cutting its stem is not enough to kill a tree. The branches and leaves will grow again. We need to cut out the root and dry it in the sun so that it is destroyed. This poem highlights a lot of morals. Firstly, it displays the destructive nature of humans. Secondly, it shows that Mother Nature is inevitable and cannot be easily destroyed. Thirdly, the tree is a symbol of mankind. It says that human life is not so easy to end. If we cut the fingers or the skin, then we do not die. It is the heart that should be cut-out. This is the main theme of the poem. The poem is very short. But it slashes out scar in our minds.

Full Interpretation

In the poem, “On Killing a Tree” by Gieve Patel, the poet wants to say something about the cutting of trees. According to him, it will take too much time to kill a tree. It is not just a simple jab: a quick stab or blow: to do the job. The tree has grown slowly consuming the earth: eating and drinking from it: rising out of the earth, feeding upon the crust of the earth, absorbing: taking in: innumerable years of sunlight, air water, out of the trees’ leprous hide: resembling the skin of a leper (here) refers to the discolored bark of the tree: the newly formed leaves begin to sprout.

A woodcutter may hack: cut or chop with repeated and regular blows: and chop, but still this alone will not do the job. The tree does not seem to feel any kind of pain because the bleeding bark seemed to heal all the time. The trunk of the tree from close to the ground will produced curled green twigs that will rise from the miniature bows. If their growth is not checked, then they will expand again and grow to their former sizes.

The most important thing to do while killing a tree is to ensure that the root is pulled out of the anchoring: source of security and stability: earth. The tree is to be rope-tied and pulled out: snapped out: pulled apart or break with a snapping sound: or it should be pulled out entirely from the earth cave.

Finally, the strength of the tree will be exposed, from the very source where the white and wet, which is the most sensitive part which has been hidden for many years inside the earth. Then it is only a matter of scorching: burning superficially so as to discolor or damage the texture of: and choking: here drying up: in the sun. In the end, the tree will go through a process of browning, hardening, twisting and withering. Then ultimately, the tree gets killed.

Comprehension:

1. Why does the poet use the expression 'to kill' rather than 'to cut' a tree?

Ans. The main reason of the poet to express 'to kill' rather than 'to cut' is every plant has a life like human beings or living beings. The poet compared the plants with living beings because they can also express their feelings and some situations are also being faced by them (plants) as same as the human faces it. The main reason are plants also have birth like humans which means they germinate from ground and they also have death when they are destroyed totally from the ground.

2. According to the poet. How does nature renew itself after an attack by man?

Ans. Nature has its own capacity to renew itself. Although the human beings attack to destroy the trees it will grow because of its source, the root. The root is white, sensitive and wet. It is hidden for years inside the earth. It takes the sunlight, humidity and air. So, nature renews the trees again.

3. Why do you think the poet describes in detail the cutting of a tree? What effect does it have on you as a reader?

Ans. The poet is trying to emphasize on protection of trees as it is an essential element of our natural ecosystem. In detail the cutting of a tree by Browning- hardening, twisting- withering etc., In fact it is a process to turn a felled or cut-down tree into furniture wood. This line also

clears and proves the fact that a tree is not an enemy to the man but it is the man who is enemy to the tree. We kill tree for our greed, for some material gain. The scene is pathetic and throughout the poem, the breathless disorder this creates to the reader's mind will have to be termed influential. Hence, it is not an easy task to kill the tree. This is to make the reader realize in vivid graphic imagery the cruelty of cutting down of trees.

4. What are the lessons to be learnt from the poem?

Ans .Killing a tree is not a simple jab with a knife.

- It takes much time to kill a tree.
- It has grown absorbing years of sunlight and water.
- Trees are also living organisms and they have life.
- As human beings the tree are also delicate having tendency.
- The life of trees is compared to human life.
- Man became selfish and he takes everything from nature but he doesn't give to nature in return.
- We should protect nature without causing any trouble to it.
- We don't have any right to kill a tree as they also have a life.

Is global agreement the only way to tackle climate changes?

1. What approach do the authors feel with be most effective in dealing with climate change?

Ans. It has been evident that for some years now that the top-down approach to climate negotiations proposed at Kyoto was never going to work. At every climate conference most of the Countries have committed in principle to ratification and global agreement since Kyoto. But it is unsuccessful. The real drive for change in climate negotiations is the call for voluntary national commitments.

2. What significant step did the UK take in 2003 that has impacted climate change policies?

Ans. The significant step was, in 2003 the UK became the first nation to announce voluntarily that it would reduce its carbon emission by 60% by 2050.

3. What is meant by the phrase ‘muscular bilateralism’?

Ans. Muscular bilateralism is defined as flexibility to support and strengthen two sides. Here it is used to appreciate the decisions made by the UK government to support and take measures on climate change.

4. Currently how many low-carbon project exits?

Ans. There are 7000 low-carbon project exits.

5. What international organizations is likely to drive the change?

Ans. WTO is likely to drive the change in this programme.

Verbal Ability :

Circus - not arriving at a conclusive agreement

backing - help or support.

top-down approach - relating to a hierarchical structure or process that progresses from large, basic unit to smaller, detailed sub units

sell-by-date - Expiry date or deadline

bridge a gap - to connect two things

Grammar

1. Fill in the blanks with prepositions.

a. What are you going to buy Ramya on her birthday?

b. The teacher asked the class to complete the exercise given in page 20.

c. Vinay was always good at music when he was at school.

d. My father specializes in physics.

- e. I have been working for three years.
- f. Rama went to her friend's house.
- g. We could stand under / beneath the tree when it rained.
- h. He will be at work on Thursday.

Sasha's Day Out

2. Key for jumbled sentences.

Sasha's experience in nature class was full of surprises.

- 3. This was the first time he had come across so many new creatures
- 6. For example , as soon as he entered the class , which was in a zoological garden , a long grass snake slithered along the grass.
- 2. Shocked at seeing a live snake at close quarters , Sasha was speechless.
- 8. Next he saw a creature as big as his palm carrying a shell.
- 7. Later he heard a whistling noise but he was unable to see the bird that was making such a loud screeching noise.
- 10. By the time he could ask his teacher about the bird , it flew away.
- 5. Though unknown creatures scared him , Sasha had a great time in his nature class.
- 9. But the best part was seeing a big , fat frog sitting near the stream like an old , fat king.
- 1. Students had to make way for the royal frog.
- 4. The frog was not even scared of human beings.

How to regain green cover

- 1. How has the loss in green cover affected the health of the population in Chennai?

Ans. The reduction of green cover leads to increase in air pollution, ground water depletion, frequent floods during the monsoon, overall rise in temperature and especially in cities young children are suffering from various lung diseases.

2. How did Delhi regain its lost green cover? What lesson can other states learn from this?

Ans. Delhi's turn-around offers a picture in contrast.

- Over the past 10 years. The national capital's green cover expanded by nearly 10 times.
- Govind singh of Delhi greens an NGO, says that the city has released that tree plantation drives would be successful only if the local population is involved.
- After steadily declining for three decades, ground water levels in Delhi have stabilized, air quality has improved and noise levels have reduced.
- Developing a green belt around each residential locality that can act as a noise barrier is now official policy.

3. What are the recommendations given in the text to regain /protect Chennai's green cover?

- The current urban tree cover improvement efforts are often not carried out strategically.
- The forest department plans to plant six lakh saplings in Chennai region
- The guidelines specified in 2000 clearly state that an area of 6 x 6 inches is to be left uncemented around trees to let them grow.
- R. Madhavan of the environmental society of Mandaveli says that maintenance and pruning is another major problem and Chennai population does not take adequate care.
- Every tree that is taller than 25 feet requires attention ahead of the monsoon.

Verbal Ability:

1. Economic liberalisation - lessening of govt regulations and restrictions in an economy and allow for private companies.
2. Built-up area - Constructed area
3. Pipe dream - a false hope or unrealizable dream
4. Hot spots - a small area with a relatively high temperature in

comparison to its surroundings.

5. Geographic area - a demarcated area of the Earth

Prefix	Meaning	Origin	Example
Mono	One	Greek	Monolingual
Pre/Ante	Before	Latin	Prerequisite , Antediluvian
Bi	Two	Latin	Bilingual
Milli	One-Thousandth	Latin	Millisecond
Semi	Half/Partly	Latin	Semi circle
Post	After	Latin	Post war
Sub	Under/Below	Latin	Sub merge , Subway

Identify the prefix and the appropriate word and fill in the blanks.

1. Dealing with many countries Multinational.
2. Not educated Illiterate.
3. Knowing two languages Bilingual.
4. The world in miniature Mini world.
5. Arrange something in advance Pre arrange.
6. Half a circle Semi circle.
7. Below zero Sub zero.
8. One thousand years millennium.
9. Once in two years Biennial.
10. After a trauma Post trauma.

POLLUTION

PART-II

AIR POLLUTION TOUCHES A NEW HIGH ON DAY OF DEEPAVALI

Comprehension

1. Which was the noisiest area according to the survey?

Ans. As far as noise levels are concerned. They had exceeded limits in the five places where the survey had been done.

According to K.Karthikeyan, member secretary, tamil nadu pollution control board, said that Ayanavaram, which recorded 85.2 db in the 24 hours period ending 6 pm on Wednesday recorded as the noiest.

2. Why was the survey carried out?

Ans. The main reason for carrying survey is, so many toxic gases are exhaled during the time of burning crackers. The toxic gases like sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides may cause very much danger for living being. To control such type of toxic gases different type of survivals had been implemented. This survey is one among those survivals.

3. How would you describe the increase in bursting of crackers in 2010-2011?

Ans. We can easily find out the truth of increasing in bursting of crackers by observing the survey given in the text which appeared in the form of table.

In 2010 the RSPM rate in Triplicane is 46 microgram/cubic meter during pre Deepavali. If we observe the RSPM rate on the day of Deepavali it was highly increased to 248 microgram/cubic meter and the other toxic gases were also increased compared to normal days.

According to 2011 statistics the RSPM rate in Triplicane is 94 microgram/cubic meter and on the day of Deepavali it was increased to 498 microgram/cubic meter.

In the same way if we observe all the statistics of given places comparing 2010 and 2011, It comes to know that increase in bursting crackers is more during the year 2011.

4. Can you suggest recommendations to check the increasing incidence of noise and air pollution in metro cities in the country/ work with your partner?

Ans.

- Ensure that the standard level of pollution should be maintained before and after Diwali.
- Smog observers are to be divisible and located where the pollution is more.
- In order to reduce pollution, planting trees by every citizen should be strictly instructed.
- It is 100% better and good to leave in a green place where number of trees and grew plants are located.
- To control noise pollution battery charged vehicles are used. This may reduce air pollution also.
- Avoid burning of heavy crackers (i.e. more sound giving crackers).
- These are some of the steps to recommend to check the increasing incidence of noise in metro cities in the country.

5. What is the ideal air quality recommended?

Ans.

- The permissible limit is 100 microgram/cubic meters
- The permissible noise level in residential areas is 45 db during night time 55 db during day.
- In commercial areas it is 55db during night and 65 db during day.
- Sulphur dioxide levels varies from 29.5 to 70.09 microgram/cubicmeter against National Ambient Air Quality(NAAQ) standard of 60 microgram/cubic meter.
- The level of nitrogen oxides was 86.42 microgram/cubic meter.
- These are the levels to ensure for the ideal air quality.

Answer the following:

1. What are some of the dangers of noise/air pollution?

Ans. Noise pollution: noise pollution or noise disturbance is the disturbing or excessive noise that may harm the activity or balance of human or animal life.

The source of most outdoor noise worldwide is mainly caused by machines and transportation systems, motor vehicles, aircrafts and trains.

Danger of noise pollution:

- Noise leads to the emotional and behavioral stress. A person may feel disturbed in the presence of loud noise such as produced by heating of drums.
- Noise may permanently damage hearing a sudden loud noise can cause severe damage to the ear drum.
- Noise increases the chances of occurrence of disease such as headache, blood pressure, heart failure, etc.
- Noise may cause damage to liver, brain, and heart.

Example: some people listen to music with amplifiers and big boom-boxes at very high volume.

Air pollution: Air pollution is the introduction of particulates, biological molecules, or other harmful materials into earth's atmosphere causing disease, death to humans etc.

Air pollution may come from anthropogenic or natural sources.

Danger of Air Pollution

- premature death
- shortness of breath and chest pain
- Wheezing and coughing.
- Increased risk of asthma attacks.

Example: Air pollution is caused due to the exhalation of smoke and dust particles through vehicles and factories.

2. What are the major contributors of noise and air pollution?

Ans. **Major contribution of noise and air pollution:**

- Air pollution and noise pollution often go hand-in-hand, as some of the most heavily air-polluted areas are also those near land busy road ways and airports.
- If you live near a busy railway, you are likely being simultaneously exposed to two major pollutions. (Air pollution and Noise pollution)
- The noise and air pollution may cause much damage to the old people and for the patients. Suffering from mental and psychological diseases.

3. Write a set of recommendations to reduce both air and noise pollution?

Ans. Noise pollution is not just annoying: it can cause deafness, fatigue, and even psychological problems. If you want to cut back on the noise pollution in your life, work on eliminating loud sounds made by machines both inside and outside your house. If necessary, sound-proof your

home so you can get some peace and quiet. Taking measuring to present noise pollution will help you and your family feel happier and wealthier.

Ways to prevent air pollution:

- Conserve energy remember to turn off lights, computers and electric appliances when not in use.
- Use energy efficient light bulbs and appliances.
- Participants in your local utility’s energy conservation programs.

Verbal Ability :

Noun	Adjective	Verb	Adverb
Installation	Instantaneous	Install	Instantaneously
Intensiveness	Intensive	Intense	Intensively
Aggravation	Aggravative	Aggravate	Aggravatingly
Conduct	Conductory	Conduct	Conductively
Permission	Permissible	Permit	Permissibly
Burstenness/burster	Bursting/bursty	Burst	-----
Admission	Admissive	Admit	Admittedly
Pollution	Polluted	Pollute	Pollutedly

Solution to plastic pollution

Comprehension:

1. How was Dr.Kalam's assurance prophetic?

Ans. When public expressed many doubts on laying plastic roads which caused disappointment, that APJ Abdul Kalam's interaction with Dr.R Vasudevan was asked to lay roads with in the college campus on an experimental basis and then public would believe the formula of him. These words of Abdul Kalam seemed to be prophetic to the professor.

2. To what extent would you say that 'garbage culture' in India has come about because of a change in life style.

Ans. Garbage culture in India has come about because of a change in life style by recycling all the waste products and materials of plastics. Plastics of recycled materials are used mainly for laying roads.These roads are very much useful for zero maintenance.

These roads are mainly responsible for a new surface without rutting, crackers or potholes.

3. Work out the meaning of these expressions from the text?

Ans. **Shot in arm:** something that is achieves/to encourage

Rain-fed potholes: pits or digs which were filled with rain water on roads.

Bear the brunt: to face furry or bad results of something.

Tar-topped tracks: roads covered by tar materials

Ideal choice: when you have some options, choose the best one among them is known as ideal choice.

Green chemistry project: projects undertaken which don't produce harmful products.

Nagging problem: prolonged problem or unsolved problems.

Painstakingly explained: doing something by extending great efforts.