

Question /Answer

Question 1. Answer the following questions.

(i) What is agriculture?

Answer: Agriculture is the primary activity that involves the cultivation of crops, fruits, vegetables, flowers and rearing of livestock.

(ii) Name the factors influencing agriculture.

Answer: Factors influencing agriculture include the topography of soil and climate.

(iii) What is shifting cultivation? What are its disadvantages?

Answer: Shifting cultivation is a class of primitive subsistence agriculture. In this, a plot of land is cleared by the farmer. This is done by felling the trees and burning them. The ashes are then mixed with soil and crops are grown. After some time, the land is abandoned and the farmer moves to a different place. This type of farming is common in the thickly forested areas of the Amazon basin, tropical Africa, parts of south-east Asia, and north-east India. It is also called “slash and burn” agriculture, because of the process of felling and burning the trees is involved.

Disadvantages:

- Deforestation
- Soil erosion
- Small patches for cultivation
- Not sufficient for feeding a large population.

(iv) What is plantation agriculture?

Answer: Plantation agriculture is a type of commercial farming where only a single crop (like tea, coffee, sugarcane, cashew, rubber, banana or cotton) is grown. A large amount of labour and capital are required. The product is processed on the farm itself or nearby factories.

(v) Name the fibre crops and name the climatic conditions required for their growth.

Answer: Two major fiber crops are jute and cotton.

- Jute grows well on alluvial soil and requires high temperature, heavy rainfall, and a humid climate for its growth.
- Cotton needs high temperatures, light rainfall, and bright sunshine for its proper growth.

Give reasons.

(i) In India agriculture is a primary activity.

Answer:

Agriculture is an activity of growing crops, fruits, vegetables, flowers, and rearing of livestock. It is a primary activity since it directly involves natural resources. In India, a huge number of people derive the activity from their ancestors. Due to lack of literacy in general, farmers prefer agriculture since they acquire the required skills from their ancestors, and so feel comfortable with it.

(ii) Different crops are grown in different regions.

Answer:

Different crops are grown in different regions because of different topography, different type soils and Different climates of a place.

Question 4. Distinguish between the following.

(i) Primary activities and secondary activities.

(ii) Subsistence farming and intensive farming.

Answer:

Primary Activities	Secondary Activities
1. Activities which involve direct extraction and production of natural resources are called primary activities. 2. Examples: agriculture, fishing and gathering.	1. Activities which are concerned with the processing of natural resources are called secondary activities. 2. Examples: manufacturing activities in industry, baking bread.

(ii)

Subsistence Farming	Intensive Farming
1. Subsistence farming uses low levels of technology and household labour. The output produced is small.	1. In intensive farming a farmer uses simple tools and more labour to cultivate a small plot of land.

Extra Questions:

Question 1. Write a short note on the types of economic activities. Give examples.

Answer: The three types of economic activities are primary, secondary, and tertiary activities.

- **Primary Activities.** Activities which involve direct extraction and production of natural resources are called primary activities. Examples: agriculture, fishing, mining.
- **Secondary Activities.** Activities which are concerned with the processing of natural resources are called secondary activities. Examples: manufacturing of finished products.
- **Tertiary Activities.** Activities which fall neither in the primary category nor the second category are called tertiary activities. They form support to primary and secondary activities. Examples: selling goods, advertising, and banking.

Question 2. What do you understand by agricultural development?

Answer: Agricultural development refers to efforts made to increase production in farms so as to meet the ever-growing demand of the population. The activities that come under this development are increasing the cropped area, growing more crops, improving irrigation, using fertilizers, sowing HYV (high-yielding variety) of seeds, and promoting mechanization. Mechanization ensures that little labor is done by the farmers; instead, machines are used to provide efficiency.

Question 3. Describe commercial farming and its types in detail.

Answer: Commercial farming is the practice in which crops are grown exclusively for commercial purpose, i.e. for sale in the market. A large area is cultivated and huge capital is involved unlike subsistence farming. Machines are used to a large extent.

Commercial grain farming is a class of commercial farming. Crops like wheat and maize are grown for commercial purpose. The temperate grasslands of North America, Europe and Asia are some common areas where it is seen.

Mixed farming is another type of commercial farming. The land is used for growing food and fodder crops and rearing livestock. Some areas where it is followed are Europe, eastern USA, Argentina, south-east Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

Plantations are a type of commercial farming where only a single crop (like tea, coffee, sugarcane, cashew, rubber, banana or cotton) is grown. Large amount of labour and capital are required. The produce is processed in the farm itself or nearby factories.