

Q2(c)

DEFINITION:

National Aeronautic and Space Agency (NASA) defines global warming as the incremental and gradual increase in the average surface temperature of earth.

CAUSES:

~~Although~~ Primarily global warming is an Anthropogenic phenomenon. That is, it is instigated ~~and~~ by human activities. Other factors influencing global warming are:

- i) Over population: Over population is burdening the pace at which earth can replenish its resources. This ~~is~~ coupled with human activities is causing enhanced green house effect.

ii) Intensive Agriculture: Increase in human population has increased demand for food. This requires us to clear land and use fertilizers which leads to global warming.

iii) Industrialization: Coupled with the population bomb is the demand for industry and specialized jobs. However, the waste products from these industries cause global warming.

iv) Burning of Fossil fuel: Increase in human population and the birth of scientific revolution brought about the burning of fossil fuels like coal and crude oil. However, the burning of these fuels leads to emissions which causes global warming.

v) Wildfires and Volcanic Eruptions: Natural disasters like wildfires and volcanic eruptions send ash and soot in the air which traps heat leading to global warming.

EFFECTS:

Global warming is a multi-faceted problem which ~~aff~~ affects all beings on Earth. Some of these are:

i) Loss of human life due to heat waves as reported in India and Pakistan.

ii) Loss of crops due to natural disasters and changing climate patterns.

iii) Loss of marine life and plants due to acid rain.

iv) Rising sea levels due to melting of glaciers and threat to coastal population.

v) Depletion of Ozone layer which will further instigate global warming.

Mitigation:

Since global warming is instigated by human activities, its mitigation revolves around human activities.

- i) Controlling Human Population: Controlling human population will help control a multitude of other factors.
- ii) Combating Deforestation: Forests are carbon sinks and we need to adopt measures like reforestation and afforestation.
- iii) Shift to Green Energy: Humans need to shift from burning fossil fuels to green energy like solar and wind.
- iv) Emission Control: In order to assess the emissions from industries equipment needs to be installed to record and control emissions.