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# ENV. SCIENCE

Q NO 7

What is PEPA Act? Explain its cores.

ANSWER

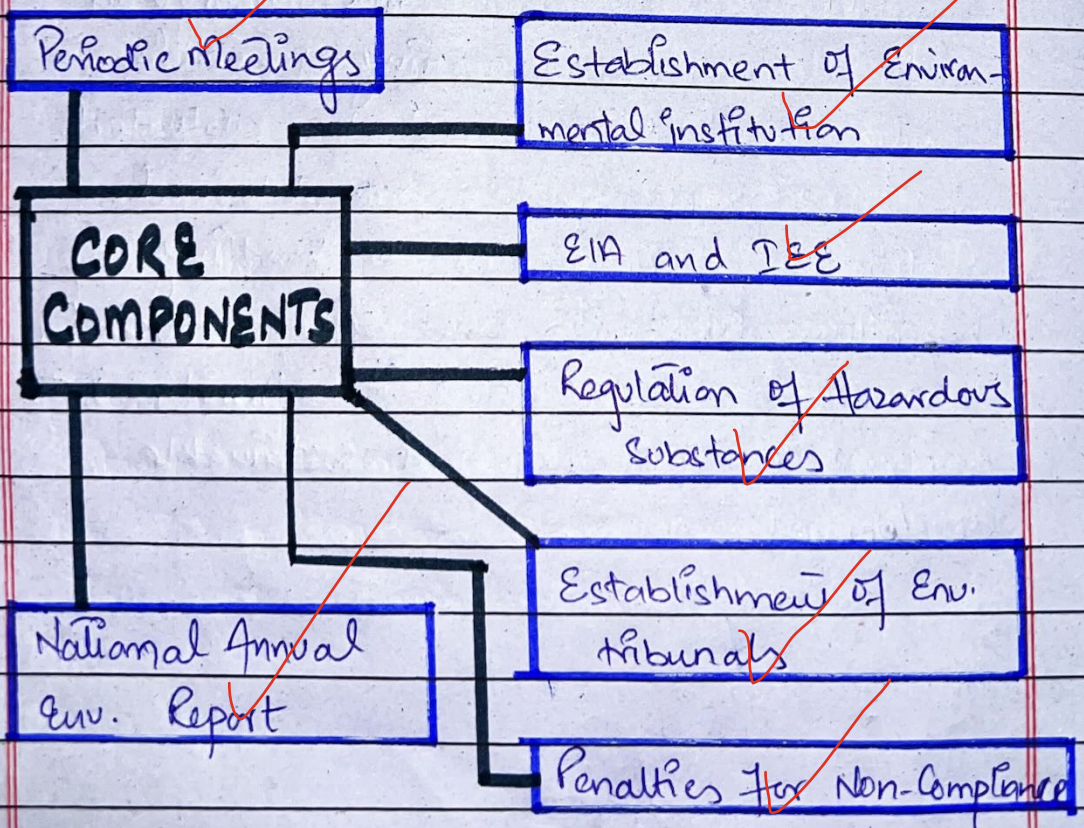
## INTRODUCTION

Pakistan Environmental Protection Act of 1997 is a legislative framework which aims to safeguard the environment in Pakistan. The Act establishes key institutions such as the Pakistan Environmental Protection Council and the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency, to oversee and implement environmental policies. The Act mandates that any project must undergo an initial commencement, ensuring potential environmental effects must be evaluated and necessary approvals are obtained. Additionally, PEPA regulates the handling of hazardous substances and sets penalties for non-compliance, reinforcing its commitment to environmental protection and sustainable development.

## WHAT IS PEPA 1997?

The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency Act (PEPA) of 1997, is a legal framework enacted to safeguard, conserve, rehabilitate, and enhance Pakistan's environment. Main aim of the act is to control pollution and promote sustainable development. Under this Act Pakistan environmental protection council and PEPA agencies who were responsible for undertaking inquiries of investigation into environmental issues.

## CORE COMPONENTS OF PEPA:



## ESTABLISHMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTIONS:

1. → Pakistan Environmental Protection Council
2. → Pakistan Environmental Protection Agencies.

### ① Pakistan Environmental Protection Council (PEPC).

PEPC is responsible for formulating national environmental policies and ensure their implementation.

### ② Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA).

Pak-EPA is tasked with enforcing environmental laws, approving ~~env~~ Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Initial Environmental Examinations (IEE), and setting National Environmental Quality Standards (NEQS).

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) & INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION (IEE):

It is mandatory for the project proponents to conduct an EIA or IEE before initiating any project. This helps ensure that all environmental effects are evaluated, and necessary approvals are obtained from the relevant environmental agency.

## REGULATION OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES:

PEPA Act focuses on controlling the generation, collection, consignment, transportation, treatment, disposal, storage, handling and import of substances to prevent environmental pollution.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL TRIBUNALS:

Specialized tribunals are set up to handle cases related to environmental violations, ensuring effective legal recourse and enforcement of environmental laws.

## PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE:

The Act prescribes fines and penalties for individuals or organizations that violate its provisions. For instance, initiating a project without the requisite environmental approval can result in substantial fines, as evidenced by the Environmental Protection Tribunal Islamabad imposing a fine of Rs. 33.5 million on Bahria Town Private Limited for such a violation.

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## NATIONAL ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT:

The agencies must consider the national annual environmental report and appropriate directions further.

## PERIODIC MEETINGS:

Agencies are responsible to convene periodic meetings for the discussion of environmental situations regularly.

In a nutshell, PEPA focuses on environmental problems and provides a legal framework for environmental protection and sustainable development in Pakistan.

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