

# GUJARAT TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

## BE-4 SEMESTER – S22 TO W25 – QUESTION BANK SOLUTION

### Subject Name & Code:

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY- BE04000101**

**Note on Question Sources:** This question bank is compiled from old GTU subjects (3110007 Environmental Sciences & 3161914 Renewable Energy Engineering) and the ESSRE list. Since the new syllabus (BE04000101) started in 2024-25, no direct previous papers exist. These questions are the **best available match** to the new syllabus topics and sub-topics.

**Q. Describe effects of air pollution on plants, property, and human beings. (7 marks – appeared 4+ times)**

**Ans:**

- **Real-world application:** Delhi's winter smog causes school closures and respiratory emergencies.

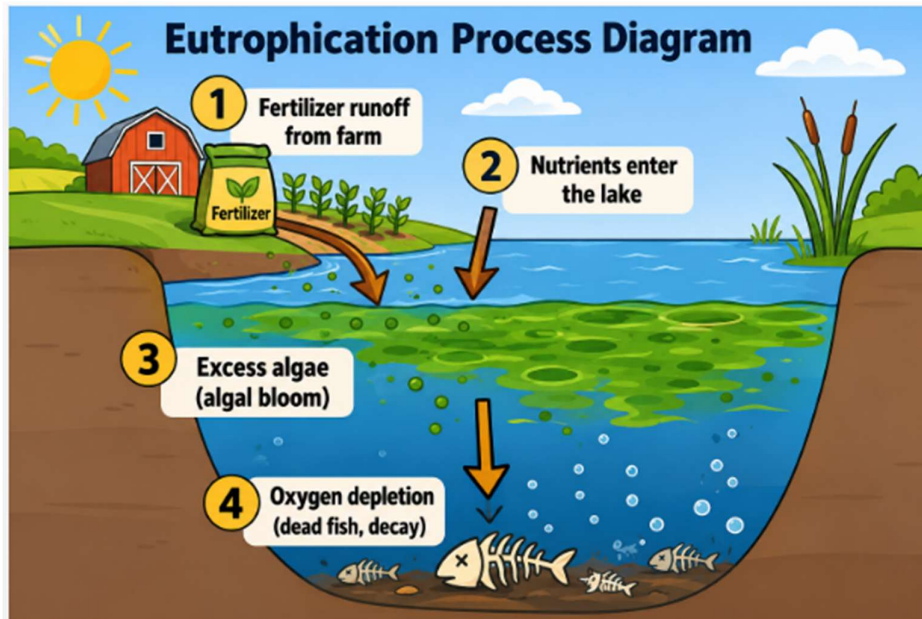
Affected	Effects
<b>Human beings</b>	Respiratory diseases (asthma, bronchitis), cardiovascular problems, lung cancer, eye irritation, neurological damage (lead).
<b>Plants</b>	Chlorosis (yellowing), necrosis (dead spots), reduced photosynthesis, premature leaf drop, crop yield loss (e.g., ozone damage to wheat).
<b>Property</b>	Corrosion of metals ( $\text{SO}_2 \rightarrow$ acid rain), fading of paints, erosion of marble (Taj Mahal discoloration), soiling of buildings.

- **Common GTU example:** Acid rain from  $\text{SO}_2$  and  $\text{NO}_x$  damages limestone buildings (Calcium sulfate formation).

**Q. Explain the concept of eutrophication. (7 marks – appeared 4+ times)**

**Ans:**

- **Definition:** Excessive enrichment of water bodies with nutrients (nitrates, phosphates) leading to algal blooms, oxygen depletion, and death of aquatic life.
- **Process:**
  1. Nutrients enter from fertilizers, sewage, detergents.
  2. Algae grow rapidly (algal bloom).
  3. Algae die and decompose – bacteria consume dissolved oxygen.
  4. Hypoxia/anoxia causes fish kills.
- **Diagram:**



- **Control methods:** Reduce phosphate in detergents, treat sewage, buffer strips along farmland.

**Example:** Dal Lake (Srinagar) and Chilika Lake (Odisha) suffer from eutrophication due to untreated sewage.

**Q. Explain sources & effects of noise pollution. (7 marks – appeared 3+ times)**

**Ans:**

- **Sources:**
  - Industrial (compressors, generators, textile looms)
  - Transport (honking, aircraft, trains)
  - Construction (drilling, pile driving, demolition)
  - Domestic (loudspeakers, fireworks, kitchen appliances)
- **Effects:**
  - Hearing loss (temporary/permanent)
  - Sleep disturbance → fatigue, irritability
  - Cardiovascular stress (hypertension)
  - Reduced work efficiency
  - Wildlife disruption (birds change mating calls)
- **Control strategies (real-world):**
  - Acoustic enclosures for machinery
  - Green belts (trees absorb sound)
  - Noise barriers on highways
  - Silent zones near hospitals/schools

**Example:** Mumbai's Coastal Road uses sound-absorbing walls near residential areas.

**Q. Discuss major water pollutants and their effects. (7 marks – appeared 2+ times)**

**Ans:**

Pollutant	Source	Effect
Pathogens (bacteria, viruses)	Sewage, animal waste	Waterborne diseases (cholera, typhoid)

Pollutant	Source	Effect
Organic matter (BOD)	Sewage, food processing	Oxygen depletion, fish kills
Nutrients (N, P)	Fertilizers, detergents	Eutrophication, algal toxins
Heavy metals (Hg, Pb, Cd)	Mining, battery industry	Neurological damage, kidney failure
Pesticides	Agricultural runoff	Endocrine disruption, cancer
Oil & grease	Spills, runoff from roads	Smothering of aquatic life
Thermal pollution	Power plant cooling	Reduced dissolved oxygen, species migration

**Example:** Minamata disease (Japan) caused by mercury dumped into bay.

**Q. Write a short note on water quality parameters. (7 marks – appeared 2+ times)**

**Ans:**

- **Physical parameters:**
  - Temperature – affects dissolved oxygen.
  - Turbidity – cloudiness due to suspended solids.
  - Color, taste, odor – indicate contamination.
- **Chemical parameters:**
  - pH – acidic/alkaline (6.5-8.5 for drinking).
  - Dissolved Oxygen (DO) – >4 mg/L for fish survival.
  - BOD (Biochemical Oxygen Demand) – organic pollution load.
  - COD (Chemical Oxygen Demand) – total oxidizable matter.
  - TDS (Total Dissolved Solids) – salinity.
  - Nitrates, phosphates, heavy metals.
- **Biological parameters:**
  - Coliform count (MPN/100 mL) – fecal contamination.

**Indian standards (IS 10500):** pH 6.5-8.5, TDS <500 mg/L, coliform 0 MPN.

**Example:** River Ganga near Kanpur shows high BOD due to tannery effluents.

**Q. Give classification of air pollutants. (4 marks – appeared 3+ times)**

**Ans:**

Basis	Classification	Examples
<b>Origin</b>	Primary (emitted directly)	CO, SO <sub>2</sub> , PM, NO <sub>x</sub> , VOCs
	Secondary (formed in atmosphere)	O <sub>3</sub> , PAN, H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (acid rain)
<b>Physical state</b>	Gaseous	CO, SO <sub>2</sub> , NO <sub>2</sub> , O <sub>3</sub>

Basis	Classification	Examples
	Particulate	Dust, smoke, fly ash, pollen
<b>Chemical nature</b>	Organic	Benzene, methane
	Inorganic	SO <sub>2</sub> , NO <sub>x</sub> , CO
<b>Source</b>	Natural (volcano, forest fire)	Ash, SO <sub>2</sub>
	Anthropogenic (human)	Vehicle exhaust, industrial smoke

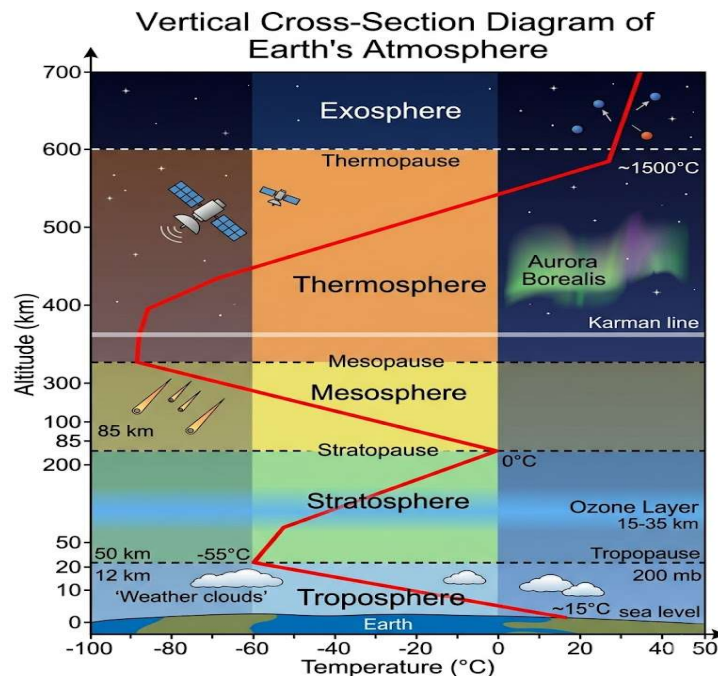
**Q. Explain the structure of the atmosphere with a neat sketch. (7 marks)**

**Ans:**

- **Layers from surface upward:**

Layer	Height range	Key features
Troposphere	0–12 km	Weather, clouds, 75% of mass, temperature decreases with height
Stratosphere	12–50 km	Ozone layer (absorbs UV), temperature increases
Mesosphere	50–85 km	Coldest layer (–90°C), meteors burn
Thermosphere	85–500 km	Auroras, satellites, temperature >1000°C
Exosphere	>500 km	Thin hydrogen/helium, merges with space

- **Diagram:**



**Example:** Commercial airplanes fly in lower stratosphere to avoid turbulence.

**Q. Differentiate between sound and noise. (3 marks – appeared 3+ times)**

**Ans:**

Parameter	Sound	Noise
Definition	Pleasant, desired auditory sensation	Unpleasant, unwanted, irritating
Frequency	Any frequency (20 Hz – 20 kHz)	Often irregular, high intensity
Psychological effect	Relaxing, informative	Stressful, harmful
Example	Music, birds chirping	Honking, jackhammer

**Q. Define and explain: Pollution, Ecosystem, Wholesome Water, Environmental Degradation. (4 marks)**

**Ans:**

- **Pollution:** Harmful substances/energy released into environment beyond its assimilative capacity.
- **Ecosystem:** A community of living organisms (biotic) interacting with their physical (abiotic) environment. *Example:* Pond ecosystem with fish, algae, water, sediment.
- **Wholesome water:** Water that is safe and palatable for drinking – free from pathogens, toxic chemicals, and excessive minerals.
- **Environmental Degradation:** Decline in environmental quality due to resource depletion or pollution.

**Q. What are the primary sources of e-waste in India? Explain with examples. (3 marks)**

**Ans:**

- **Households:** Old mobiles, TVs, refrigerators, laptops. *Example:* Discarded Nokia phones.
- **IT/Telecom companies:** Servers, UPS batteries, networking equipment.
- **Government offices:** Computers, printers, fax machines.
- **Manufacturing scrap:** Defective PCBs, wires, plastic cases.

**Example:** Bengaluru generates ~2 lakh tonnes e-waste annually, mainly from IT parks.

**Q. Enlist and explain factors affecting municipal solid waste generation. (4 marks)**

**Ans:**

- **Population size & density** – more people → more waste.
- **Income level** – higher income → more packaging, e-waste.
- **Lifestyle** – fast food, disposable products increase waste.
- **Season** – festivals, weddings generate extra waste.
- **Seasonal fruits/vegetables** – peels, seeds increase organic waste.
- **Waste collection frequency** – infrequent collection may hide actual generation (compaction).

**Example:** During Diwali, firecracker debris and sweet boxes raise MSW by 30% in cities.

**Q. What are the steps for improving e-waste management by government and industry? (3 marks)**

**Ans:**

- **Government:**
  - Enforce E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022 (extended producer responsibility – EPR).
  - Register authorized recyclers; ban informal dismantling.
  - Promote awareness campaigns.
- **Industry:**
  - Design for recycling (modular components, less toxic materials).
  - Set up collection centers and take-back programs.
  - Partner with formal recyclers to recover gold, copper, rare earths.

**Example:** Nokia’s “take-back” program collects old phones free of charge.

**Q. State different methods of solid waste disposal. Explain one in detail. (4 marks)**

**Ans:**

- **Methods:**
  1. Landfilling (sanitary)
  2. Incineration
  3. Composting
  4. Vermicomposting
  5. Recycling
  6. Pyrolysis
- **Sanitary landfill (detailed):**
  - Waste is spread in thin layers, compacted, and covered with soil daily.
  - Bottom liner (clay/HDPE) prevents leachate contamination.
  - Leachate collection pipes and gas vents (methane recovery optional).
  - Final cap with topsoil and vegetation.

**Example:** Delhi’s Okhla landfill – overfilled, now using bioreactor technology.

**Q. Define biomedical waste and list its sources. (3 marks)**

**Ans:**

- **Definition:** Any waste generated during diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of humans or animals, or in research activities.
- **Sources:**
  - Hospitals, clinics, nursing homes
  - Veterinary hospitals
  - Blood banks, pathology labs
  - Research laboratories
  - Funeral homes (embalming waste)

**Example:** Used syringes, blood bags, pathological tissues, bandages.

**Q. Differentiate between point and non-point sources of water pollution. (3 marks)**

**Ans:**

Feature	Point source	Non-point source
Origin	Single, identifiable location	Diffuse, widespread
Control	Relatively easy (treat at source)	Difficult (needs watershed management)
Examples	Factory discharge pipe, sewage outfall	Agricultural runoff, urban stormwater

**Q. Define: Garbage, Incineration, Eutrophication, Particulate matter (PM). (4 marks)**

**Ans:**

- **Garbage:** Putrescible solid waste from kitchens, markets (food scraps, vegetable peels).
- **Incineration:** Controlled combustion of waste at high temperature (800-1200°C) to reduce volume and destroy pathogens.
- **Eutrophication:** Nutrient enrichment leading to algal blooms and oxygen depletion.
- **Particulate matter (PM):** Airborne solid/liquid particles – PM10 (inhalable, <math><10\mu\text{m}</math>), PM2.5 (respirable, <math><2.5\mu\text{m}</math>).

**Q. Enlist sources of biomedical waste and discuss color coding for segregation. (7 marks)**

**Ans:**

- **Sources:** (as above)
- **Color coding (as per Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016):**

Color	Type of waste	Examples	Treatment
Yellow	Human anatomical, animal, microbiology, chemical, discarded medicines	Tissues, organs, blood bags, lab cultures	Incineration / autoclaving
Red	Contaminated plastic (syringes, tubes, gloves, IV sets)	Sharps containers? No – red is for plastic	Autoclaving / shredding
White/Translucent	Sharps (needles, scalpels, glass)	Needles, broken glass	Autoclaving then shredding
Blue	Glassware and metallic implants	Used vials, metal parts	Chemical disinfection / washing

**Real-world application:** All major hospitals in India follow color-coded bins to avoid needle-stick injuries.

**Q. State different methods of biomedical waste treatment. Explain any one in detail. (4 marks)**

**Ans:**

- **Methods:** Incineration, autoclaving, hydroclaving, microwaving, chemical disinfection.
- **Autoclaving (detailed):**
  - Steam sterilization at 121°C, 15 psi for 30-60 minutes.
  - Kills all microorganisms (bacteria, viruses, spores).
  - Used for plastics, rubber, sharps – not for anatomical waste.
  - After treatment, waste can be safely landfilled or shredded.

**Example:** Government hospitals use autoclaves for syringes and gloves.

**Q. Give the classification of biomedical waste. (4 marks)****Ans:**

As per WHO &amp; Indian rules, 8 categories (simplified):

Category	Type
1	Human anatomical waste (tissues, organs)
2	Animal waste (carcasses, organs from research)
3	Microbiology & biotechnology waste (cultures, vaccines)
4	Sharps (needles, scalpels)
5	Discarded medicines & cytotoxic drugs
6	Solid contaminated waste (dressings, bandages)
7	Solid plastic waste (catheters, IV tubes)
8	Liquid waste (blood, lab fluids)

**Q. State Indian ambient air quality standards. (4 marks)****Ans:**

NAAQS (National Ambient Air Quality Standards, 2009) – selected pollutants:

Pollutant	Time weighted average	Industrial/residential	Ecologically sensitive
PM10	Annual	60 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	60 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
	24 hr	100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
PM2.5	Annual	40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
	24 hr	60 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	60 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
SO <sub>2</sub>	Annual	50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
NO <sub>2</sub>	Annual	40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
CO	8 hr	4 $\text{mg}/\text{m}^3$	2 $\text{mg}/\text{m}^3$

**Example:** Delhi's PM2.5 often exceeds 300  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  – critical.**Q. Compare the causes and effects of land pollution with water pollution. (4 marks)****Ans:**

Aspect	Land Pollution	Water Pollution
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Aspect	Land Pollution	Water Pollution
<b>Causes</b>	Dumping of MSW, industrial sludge, e-waste, mining overburden	Sewage, industrial effluents, agricultural runoff, oil spills
<b>Effects</b>	Soil infertility, groundwater contamination, loss of habitat, vector breeding	Eutrophication, fish kills, waterborne diseases, ocean dead zones
<b>Commonality</b>	Both can originate from same source (e.g., landfill leachate pollutes both land and nearby river).	

**Q. Differentiate between solid waste, biomedical waste, and e-waste in terms of sources and impacts. (4 marks)**

**Ans:**

Type	Sources	Impacts
<b>Solid waste (MSW)</b>	Households, markets, offices, street sweeping	Landfill space loss, methane emissions, groundwater leachate
<b>Biomedical waste</b>	Hospitals, labs, clinics	Infectious diseases, needle-stick injuries, toxic fumes if incinerated improperly
<b>E-waste</b>	Discarded electronics (mobiles, computers, TV)	Heavy metals (Pb, Hg, Cd) leaching into soil/water, informal recycling toxic fumes

**Q. Analyze the causes and effects of acid rain and propose engineering solutions for mitigation. (7 marks)**

**Ans:**

- **Causes:**
  - SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emitted from coal power plants, factories, vehicles.
  - These gases react with water vapor → H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and HNO<sub>3</sub>.
- **Effects:**
  - Lowers pH of lakes → kills fish.
  - Leaches aluminum from soil → damages plant roots.
  - Corrodes buildings (marble, limestone) – Taj Mahal yellowing.
  - Reduces crop yields.
- **Engineering solutions:**
  - **Flue gas desulfurization (FGD)** – removes 90% SO<sub>2</sub> using limestone slurry.
  - **Selective catalytic reduction (SCR)** – reduces NO<sub>x</sub>.
  - Use low-sulfur coal or switch to natural gas.
  - Catalytic converters in vehicles.
  - **Lime addition to lakes** (temporary remedial).

**Example:** Germany's Black Forest recovery after installing FGD in all coal plants.

**Q. Propose a pollution control plan for an urban industrial zone. (7 marks)**

**Ans:**

- **Air pollution:**
  - Mandatory stack monitoring (CEMS).
  - Install bag filters/ESP/scrubbers.
  - Green belt (3 trees per 100 m<sup>2</sup>).
  - Ban open burning of waste.
- **Water pollution:**
  - Zero liquid discharge (ZLD) for all industries.
  - Common effluent treatment plant (CETP) with tertiary treatment.
  - Rainwater harvesting to recharge groundwater.
- **Noise pollution:**
  - Acoustic enclosures for compressors.
  - Speed limits for vehicles inside zone.
  - Green buffers along boundary.
- **Solid waste:**
  - Segregation at source → recycling for plastic/metals.
  - Hazardous waste storage in designated sheds; send to incinerator or TSDF.

**Real-world example:** Gujarat's Vapi industrial area implemented ZLD and river water quality improved.

**Q. Justify the need for strict regulations on e-waste management. (7 marks)**

**Ans:**

- **Severity of problem:** India produces ~3.2 million tonnes e-waste annually (2023).
- **Health impacts:** Informal recycling (burning wires, acid leaching) releases dioxins, lead, cadmium → respiratory diseases, kidney damage, neurotoxicity in children.
- **Environmental damage:** Heavy metals leach into groundwater, persist for decades.
- **Resource loss:** E-waste contains gold, silver, copper, rare earths – lost if not recycled properly.
- **Legal basis:** E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022 make EPR mandatory, but enforcement is weak.
- **Real-world outcome:** Strict regulation in Europe (WEEE directive) achieves 40% e-waste recycling; India currently <10% formal recycling.

**Justification:** Without strict rules + penalties, informal sector dominates → irreversible health & environmental disaster.

**Q. Identify common air pollutants and their sources. (3 marks – Remember)**

**Ans:**

Pollutant	Major Sources
<b>Particulate Matter (PM10, PM2.5)</b>	Vehicle exhaust, construction dust, biomass burning, industrial stacks
<b>SO<sub>2</sub> (Sulphur Dioxide)</b>	Coal-fired power plants, diesel generators, industrial boilers
<b>NO<sub>x</sub> (NO, NO<sub>2</sub>)</b>	Vehicle engines, thermal power plants, industrial furnaces
<b>CO (Carbon Monoxide)</b>	Incomplete combustion in vehicles (petrol/diesel), fireplaces

Pollutant	Major Sources
<b>O<sub>3</sub> (Ozone – ground level)</b>	Formed by reaction of NO <sub>x</sub> + VOCs in sunlight
<b>VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds)</b>	Paints, solvents, petrol evaporation, refineries

**Q. Explain the effects of particulate matter (PM) on human health. (3 marks – Understand)**

**Ans:**

- **PM<sub>10</sub> ( $\leq 10 \mu\text{m}$ ):** Inhaled into respiratory tract → causes coughing, throat irritation, bronchitis, asthma exacerbation.
- **PM<sub>2.5</sub> ( $\leq 2.5 \mu\text{m}$ ):** Enters deep into alveoli → crosses into bloodstream → linked to cardiovascular diseases (heart attack, stroke), lung cancer, reduced lung function in children.
- **Chronic exposure:** Increased mortality from respiratory and heart diseases.

**Example:** Delhi's high PM<sub>2.5</sub> (300+  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) leads to 30% rise in hospital admissions for respiratory distress during smog episodes.

**Q. Explain the effects of SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> on human health. (3 marks – Understand)**

**Ans:**

Pollutant	Health Effects
<b>SO<sub>2</sub></b>	Irritates eyes, nose, throat; causes bronchospasm, wheezing; worsens asthma and chronic bronchitis; long-term exposure leads to reduced lung function.
<b>NO<sub>x</sub> (especially NO<sub>2</sub>)</b>	Inflames lining of lungs; reduces resistance to respiratory infections (e.g., pneumonia); increases frequency of asthma attacks; associated with pulmonary edema at high concentrations.

**Example:** In cities with heavy diesel traffic (e.g., Mumbai), NO<sub>2</sub> levels frequently exceed WHO limits, correlating with increased childhood asthma.

**Q. Describe the concept of Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS). (3 marks – Understand)**

**Ans:**

- **Definition:** Legally permissible maximum concentrations of air pollutants in the ambient (outdoor) air, set by environmental authorities to protect public health and the environment.
- **Purpose:** Provide a benchmark to assess air quality, enforce pollution control, and guide urban planning.
- **Key parameters:** Time-weighted averages (annual, 24-hour, 8-hour) for pollutants like PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO, O<sub>3</sub>, Pb, NH<sub>3</sub>, etc.
- **India's standard:** NAAQS (National Ambient Air Quality Standards, 2009) – more stringent than WHO interim targets but often exceeded.

**Example:** NAAQS for PM<sub>2.5</sub> annual average is 40  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (industrial/residential areas). If a city exceeds this, it must implement an action plan.

**Q. Interpret water quality standards with suitable examples. (4 marks – Apply)****Ans:**

Water quality standards define acceptable limits of physical, chemical, and biological parameters for different uses. Based on **IS 10500 (Indian drinking water standard)** :

Parameter	Standard (Desirable limit)	Example interpretation
<b>pH</b>	6.5 – 8.5	If pH = 4.5 (acidic), water is corrosive, may leach metals from pipes.
<b>TDS</b>	<500 mg/L	TDS = 1200 mg/L → too saline (brackish) – not suitable for drinking, needs RO.
<b>Chloride</b>	<250 mg/L	Chloride = 500 mg/L indicates possible sewage or saline intrusion.
<b>Coliform</b>	0 MPN/100 mL	If coliform = 50 MPN, water is unsafe – must be boiled/disinfected.
<b>Nitrate</b>	<45 mg/L	Nitrate = 100 mg/L → risk of methemoglobinemia (blue baby syndrome) for infants.

**Application:** A water sample from a river near a factory shows TDS 2000 mg/L, coliform 100 MPN → not potable, requires treatment (reverse osmosis + chlorination).

**Q. Interpret Ambient Air Quality Standards with suitable examples. (4 marks – Apply)****Ans:**

Using **NAAQS (India, 2009)** for industrial/residential areas:

Pollutant	Time	Standard	Example interpretation
<b>PM<sub>2.5</sub></b>	24-hour	60 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	If measured value = 180 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ → exceeds 3× limit → high health risk, emergency measures needed (school closure, odd-even vehicle rule).
<b>SO<sub>2</sub></b>	Annual	50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	If annual average = 80 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ → coal power plants in region must install FGD.
<b>NO<sub>2</sub></b>	24-hour	80 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	If daily peak = 150 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ → traffic congestion hotspots identified for diesel vehicle restrictions.
<b>CO</b>	8-hour	4 $\text{mg}/\text{m}^3$	If CO = 10 $\text{mg}/\text{m}^3$ near a tunnel → ventilation system inadequate; workers at risk of headache, dizziness.

**Real-world example:** Delhi's PM<sub>2.5</sub> often reads 300–400  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (5–6× standard) → triggers GRAP (Graded Response Action Plan) Stage IV – construction banned, truck entry restricted.

**Q. Demonstrate methods to control noise pollution in residential areas. (4 marks – Apply)****Ans:**

Method	Application Example
<b>Green buffers</b>	Plant dense trees (e.g., neem, ficus) along roads – reduce 5–10 dB.
<b>Acoustic barriers</b>	Install soundproof walls (wood, polycarbonate) near playgrounds or busy streets.
<b>Speed bumps &amp; traffic calming</b>	Reduce vehicle speed → lower tyre noise.
<b>Noise insulation in buildings</b>	Double-glazed windows, weather-stripping on doors.
<b>Regulation</b>	Enforce “silent zone” (100 m around schools/hospitals) – ban honking, loudspeakers.
<b>Urban planning</b>	Locate community halls, commercial areas away from residential clusters.

**Example:** In Bengaluru’s residential layout, installing 3 m high concrete block wall along the main road reduced indoor noise from 70 dB to 55 dB.

**Q. Demonstrate strategies for controlling noise pollution in urban areas. (7 marks – Apply)**

**Ans:**

**1. Source control at vehicle level:**

- Mandatory silencers & spark arrestors.
- Promote electric vehicles (EVs) – near silent.
- Ban aftermarket exhaust modifications (loud pipes).

**2. Traffic management:**

- **Noise mapping** to identify hotspots → reroute heavy vehicles.
- **Low-noise asphalt** (porous pavement) reduces tyre-pavement noise by 3–6 dB.
- **Fixed speed limits** (e.g., 50 km/h in residential zones).

**3. Land use planning:**

- Mandatory **green belts** 15–20 m width along highways.
- **Setback distances** – hospitals, schools minimum 100 m from railway lines.

**4. Building codes:**

- Require **sound insulation** (STC rating 45+) for windows facing streets.
- **Acoustic ceilings** in commercial buildings.

**5. Enforcement & public awareness:**

- Noise monitoring stations with real-time display (like air quality).
- Fines for honking in silent zones (Mumbai – ₹1000 fine).
- “No-honking day” campaigns (e.g., Bengaluru).

**6. Industrial noise control:**

- Enclose compressors, generators in soundproof cabins.
- Use **silencers** on exhaust ducts.

**Real-world case:** Hyderabad’s Outer Ring Road – porous asphalt + 6 m tall noise barriers + green belt reduced nearby residential noise from 80 dB to 55 dB.

**Q. Suggest engineering solutions for management of biomedical waste. (7 marks – Apply)**

**Ans:**

**1. Segregation at source (color-coded bins):**

Color	Waste type	Engineering solution
Yellow	Anatomical, chemical, microbiology	Autoclave + incinerator with pollution control (scrubber, bag filter)
Red	Plastic (syringes, tubes, gloves)	Autoclave → shredder → recycle into plastic pellets (e.g., for non-medical use)
White (translucent)	Sharps (needles, scalpels)	Needle destroyer (electric/mechanical) + puncture-proof container → autoclave → shredding
Blue	Glassware, metallic implants	Chemical disinfection (1% hypochlorite) → washing → reuse or recycle

**2. Treatment technologies:**

Technology	Capacity	Best for	Byproduct
<b>Autoclave</b> (121°C, 15 psi, 30 min)	50–500 kg/batch	Plastics, sharps, rubber	Sterile waste (can landfill)
<b>Hydroclave</b> (steam + internal mixing)	100–1000 kg/batch	Plastic, cotton, gowns	Reduced volume, sterile
<b>Microwave</b> (2450 MHz)	100–300 kg/hr	Moist waste (organs, dressings)	Dry, disinfected residue
<b>Incineration with APCD</b> (850–1100°C)	100–2000 kg/hr	Anatomical, chemical, pathological	Ash (hazardous landfill)
<b>Chemical disinfection</b> (NaOCl, peracetic acid)	50–500 L/hr	Liquid waste, glassware	Neutralized effluent

**3. Engineering design features:**

- **Negative pressure rooms** in treatment area to prevent aerosol escape.
- **Effluent treatment plant (ETP)** for autoclave condensate and wash water.
- **Bag filter + wet scrubber + activated carbon** for incinerator flue gases (removes dioxins, furans, HCl, SO<sub>2</sub>).
- **Auto-control system** with temperature/pressure logging (audit trail).

**4. Real-world example:**

The **Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facility (CBWTF)** in Surat (Gujarat) – capacity 10 tons/day, uses autoclave + shredder + incinerator. Serves 2000+ healthcare facilities. Achieves 95% sterilization efficiency, converts plastic waste into granules for road construction.

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