

**Read the following passage carefully.**

- Mr Lester R. Brown in his thoughtful book, *The Global Economic Prospect*, points out that the earth's principal biological systems are four – fisheries, forests, grasslands, and croplands — and they form the foundation of the global economic system. In addition to supplying our food, these four systems provide *virtually*<sup>1</sup> all the raw materials for industry except minerals and petroleum-derived<sup>2</sup> synthetics. In large areas of the world, human claims on these systems are reaching an unsustainable level, a point where their productivity is being *impaired*<sup>3</sup>. When this happens, fisheries *collapse*<sup>4</sup>, forests disappear, grasslands are converted into barren wastelands, and croplands deteriorate. In a protein-conscious and protein hungry world, over-fishing is common every day. In poor countries, local forests are being decimated in order to *procure*<sup>5</sup> firewood for cooking. In some places, firewood has become so expensive that “what goes under the pot now costs more than what goes inside it”. Since the tropical forests are, in the words of Dr Myers, “the powerhouse of evolution”, several species of life face *extinction*<sup>6</sup> as a result of its destruction.
- It has been well said that forests precede mankind; deserts follow. The world's ancient patrimony of tropical forests is now eroding at the rate of forty to fifty million acres a year, and the growing use of dung for burning deprives the soil of an important natural fertiliser. The World Bank estimates that a five-fold increase in the rate of forest planting is needed to cope with the expected fuelwood demand in the year 2000.
- James Speth, the President of the World Resources Institute, said the other day, “We were saying that we are losing the forests at an acre a second, but it is much closer to an acre-and-a-half to a second”.

**(a) Read the questions given below and write the option you consider the most appropriate in your answer sheet :**

- Earth's biological systems are the foundation of \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 (a) political system  
 (c) social system  
 (b) ~~economic system~~  
 (d) ethical system
- The raw materials for an industry comes from \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 (a) human labour  
 (c) grasslands and croplands  
 (b) ~~fisheries~~  
 (d) croplands, fisheries, forests, grasslands
- Overfishing is done by people for the sake of \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 (a) hunting  
 (c) getting protein  
 (b) thrill  
 (d) ~~getting food~~

**VALUE POINTS**

**The passage is about :**

The author's deep concern over fast depleting resources that sustain life.

**Para 1**

- principal biological systems that supply food and raw material on the verge of collapse, forests being destroyed, overfishing too common, fuel costlier.

**Para 2**

- forests disappearing fast, creating deserts, afforestation a necessity.

**Para 3**

- the rate of losing forests more than an acre a second.

**GLOSSARY**

- virtually : nearly
- derived : obtained from something
- impaired : damaged, harmed
- collapse : crumble
- procure : obtain
- extinction : death







## The Panther

His weary glance, from passing by the bars,

has grown into a dazed and vacant stare

It seems to him there are a thousand bars

and out beyond those bars the empty air,

The Pad of his strong feet, that ceaseless sound!

Of supple tread behind the iron door -

- Is like a dance of strength circling around,



while in the circle, stunned, a great  
will stands,

But there are times the pupils of his  
eyes

Dilate, the strong lines stand alert  
apart,

~~The~~ tense with the flood of visions  
that arise

only to sink and die within his heart

His weary glance, from passing by  
the bars,

Has grown into a dazed and vacant  
stare;

It seems to him there are a thousand  
-nd bars

And out beyond those bars the  
empty air.



Date: / /  
The ceaseless sound of his strong feet, that  
of supple tread behind the iron band

is like a dance of strength circling  
around,

while in the circle, stunned, a gor-  
-sat will stand.

But there are times the pupils of  
his eyes

Dilate, the strong limbs stand alert  
apart,

Tense with the flood of visions that  
arise

only to sink and die within his  
heart.