

Model Answer

Subject Name: Environmental Technology

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22511

Important Instructions to examiners:

- 1) The answers should be examined by key words and not as word-to-word as given in the model answer scheme.
- 2) The model answer and the answer written by candidate may vary but the examiner may try to assess the understanding level of the candidate.
- 3) The language errors such as grammatical, spelling errors should not be given more Importance (Not applicable for subject English and Communication Skills.
- 4) While assessing figures, examiner may give credit for principal components indicated in the figure. The figures drawn by candidate and model answer may vary. The examiner may give credit for any equivalent figure drawn.
- 5) Credits may be given step wise for numerical problems. In some cases, the assumed constant values may vary and there may be some difference in the candidate's answers and model answer.
- 6) In case of some questions credit may be given by judgment on part of examiner of relevant answer based on candidate's understanding.
- 7) For programming language papers, credit may be given to any other program based on equivalent concept.

Q. No	Sub	Answer	Marking Scheme
INO	Q. N.		Scheme
1.		Attempt one Fire of the following	10
1.	a)	Attempt any Five of the following Ecology	10 2
	<i>a)</i>		2
		Ecology is the branch of biology that deals with the relations of organisms to one another	
		and to their physical surroundings.	
	b)	Biotic Components	1 mark
		• Animal	each for
			any 1
		• Plants	
		• Fungi	
		• Bacteria	
		Abiotic Components	
		• Temperature	1 mark
		• Oxygen	each for
			any 1
		• Water	
		• Mineral	
	c)	Air Pollutants (Four)	1/2 mark
		Carbon dioxide	each for
			any 4



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	Carbon Monoxide	
	• Sulfur Dioxide	
	• Sulfur Trioxide	
	• Methane	
	• Particulate matter	
	• Smoke	
	• Fumes	
d)	Pollutants from nitric acid plant (Four)	¹∕₂ mark
	Nitrogen dioxide	each for
	Nitric oxide	any 4
	Grease and oil	
	Nitric acid in waste water	
e)	COD	2
	It is the amount of oxygen required to degrade organic waste present in water by purely	
	chemical means.	
f)	Water Pollutants (four)	1⁄2 mark
	Oxygen demanding waste	each for any 4
	• Grease and oil	
	• Temperature	
	• Turbidity	
	• Pathogens	
	• Nutrients from fertilizers	
	Radioactive waste	
g)	Function of pollution control board (two)	1 mark
	1) Advise the Government on any matter concerning prevention and control of water	each for any 2
	and air pollution and improvement of the quality of air;	5
	2) Plan and cause to be executed a nation-wide programme for the prevention, control	
	or abatement of water and air pollution;	



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		3) Plan and organise training of persons engaged in programmes for prevention,	
		control or abatement of water and air pollution;	
		4) Organise through mass media, a comprehensive mass awareness programme on	
		prevention, control or abatement of water and air pollution;	
		5) Collect, compile and publish technical and statistical data relating to water and air	
		pollution and the measures devised for their effective prevention, control and abatement;	
		6) Prepare manuals, codes and guidelines relating to treatment and disposal of sewage	
		and trade effluents as well as for stack gas cleaning devises, stacks and ducts;	
		7) Disseminate information in respect of matters relating to water and air pollution and	
		their prevention and control;	
		8) Lay down, modify or annul, in consultation with the State Government concerned,	
		the standards for stream or well, and lay down standards for quality of air;	
		9) Establish or recognize laboratories to enable the Board to perform	
2.		Attempt any THREE of the following	12
	a)	Terrestrial Ecosystem	4
		An ecosystem is a collection of communities of both living and non-living things that are	
		interrelated. While many ecosystems exist on land and in the waters of the world, terrestrial	
		ecosystems are those that are found only on land. The biotic, or living things found in an	
		ecosystem, include various life forms, such as plants and animals. The abiotic, or non-living	
		things found in an ecosystem, include the various land-forms and the climate. Six primary	
		terrestrial ecosystems exist: tundra, taiga, temperate deciduous forest, tropical rain forest,	
		grassland and desert.	
		The ecosystem functions through several biogeochemical cycles and energy transfer	
		mechanisms. Every living organism is in some way dependent on other organisms. Plants	
		are food for herbivorous animals which are in turn food for carnivorous animals. Thus there	
		are different tropic levels in the ecosystem.	
		Plants are the 'producers' in the ecosystem as they manufacture their food by using energy	
		Plants are the 'producers' in the ecosystem as they manufacture their food by using energy from the sun. In the forest these form communities of plant life. In the sea these include tiny	



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algal forms to large seaweed.	
The herbivores animals are primary consumers as they live on the producers. In a forest,	
these are the Insects, Amphibia, Reptiles, Birds and Mammals. The herbivorous animals	
include for example Hare, Deer and Elephants that live on plant life. In grasslands, there are	
herbivores such as the blackbuck that feed on grass. In the semi-arid areas, there are species	
such as the Chinkara or Indian gazelle.	
At a higher tropic level, there are carnivores animals, or secondary consumers, which live	
on herbivorous animals.	
In our forests, the Carnivores animals are Tigers, Leopards, Jackals, Foxes and Small Wild	
Cats.	
Decomposers or Detrivores are a group of organisms consisting of small animals like	
worms, insects, bacteria and fungi, which break down dead organic material into smaller	
particles and finally into simpler substances that are used by plants as nutrition.	
Decomposition thus is a vital function in nature, as without this, all the nutrients would be	
tied up in dead matter and no new life could be produced.	
Effect of air pollution on human health	1 mark
1) Sulfur dioxide (SO ₂)	each for
i) SO2 is an irritant gas which can easily get oxidized to sulfur trioxide and in the presence	any four
of water, these can form sulfurous and sulfuric acid	
ii) The health problems related to the mucous membrane and respiratory tract are due to	
sulfate aerosols.	
iii) Chronic effects of SO2 include increased probabilities of bronchitis, "colds" of long	
duration and suppression of immune system.	
2) Hydrocarbons	
iv) The health effects of hydrocarbons have been noted in occupational exposures to tetra	
methyl lead, benzene, etc.	
v) Inhaling formaldehyde can cause irritation.	
vi) It is a major contributor to eye and respiratory irritation caused by photochemical smog.	
	The herbivores animals are primary consumers as they live on the producers. In a forest, these are the Insects, Amphibia, Reptiles, Birds and Mammals. The herbivorous animals include for example Hare, Deer and Elephants that live on plant life. In grasslands, there are herbivores such as the blackbuck that feed on grass. In the semi-arid areas, there are species such as the Chinkara or Indian gazelle. At a higher tropic level, there are carnivores animals, or secondary consumers, which live on herbivorous animals. In our forests, the Carnivores animals are Tigers, Leopards, Jackals, Foxes and Small Wild Cats. Decomposers or Detrivores are a group of organisms consisting of small animals like worms, insects, bacteria and fungi, which break down dead organic material into smaller particles and finally into simpler substances that are used by plants as nutrition. Decomposition thus is a vital function in nature, as without this, all the nutrients would be tied up in dead matter and no new life could be produced. Effect of air pollution on human health 1) Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) i) SO2 is an irritant gas which can easily get oxidized to sulfur trioxide and in the presence of water, these can form sulfurous and sulfuric acid ii) The health problems related to the mucous membrane and respiratory tract are due to sulfate aerosols. iii) Chronic effects of SO2 include increased probabilities of bronchitis, "colds" of long duration and suppression of immune system. 2) Hydrocarbons iv) The health effects of hydrocarbons have been noted in occupational exposures to tetra methyl lead, benzene, etc.



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	vii) Carbon monoxide has a great affinity for the hemoglobin in the blood and combines	
	with blood to form carboxyhemoglobin. This reduces the ability of hemoglobin to carry	
	oxygen to the body tissues.	
	4) Oxide of Nitrogen	
	viii) NO reduces the oxygen carrying capacity of blood.	
c)	Biomedical Waste	4
	Biomedical waste is any kind of waste containing infectious (or potentially infectious)	
	materials. It may also include waste associated with the generation of biomedical waste that	
	visually appears to be of medical or laboratory origin (e.g., packaging, unused bandages,	
	infusion kits, etc.), as well research laboratory waste containing biomolecules or organisms	
	that are mainly restricted from environmental release. As detailed below, discarded sharps	
	are considered biomedical waste whether they are contaminated or not, due to the	
	possibility of being contaminated with blood and their propensity to cause injury when not	
	properly contained and disposed of. Biomedical waste is a type of biowaste.	
	Biomedical waste may be solid or liquid. Examples of infectious waste include discarded	
	blood, sharps, unwanted microbiological cultures and stocks, identifiable body parts	
	(including those as a result of amputation), other human or animal tissue, used bandages	
	and dressings, discarded gloves, other medical supplies that may have been in contact with	
	blood and body fluids, and laboratory waste that exhibits the characteristics described	
	above. Waste sharps include potentially contaminated used (and unused discarded) needles,	
	scalpels, lancets and other devices capable of penetrating skin.	
	Biomedical waste is generated from biological and medical sources and activities, such as	
	the diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of diseases. Common generators (or producers) of	
	biomedical waste include hospitals, health clinics, nursing homes, emergency medical	
	services, medical research laboratories, offices of physicians, dentists, and veterinarians,	
	home health care, and morgues or funeral homes. In healthcare facilities (i.e., hospitals,	
	clinics, doctor's offices, veterinary hospitals and clinical laboratories), waste with these	
	characteristics may alternatively be called medical or clinical waste.	
d)	Features of air quality act	1 mark each for



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		The major sections and features of this Act are-	any 4
		Section 3- The Central and State Pollution Control Boards have the responsibility to	
		exercise the powers provided under this Act without prejudice.	
		Section 4- In states where there is a Water Pollution Control Board established, the same	
		shall be given the joint responsibility of controlling and monitoring air pollution, and will	
		be called State Pollution Control Board.	
		Section 5- In states where there is no Water Pollution Control Board, a new Pollution	
		Control Board will be set up.	
		Section 16 describes the functions of the Central Pollution Control Board, some of which	
		includes-	
		1. Advice the Central government on matters pertaining to air and air pollution.	
		2. Advice and support State Boards in carrying out their functions.	
		3. Carry out research related to air pollution.	
		4. Through mass media, spread awareness and information about air and air pollution.	
		5. Plan and organize the training of personnel.	
		6. Set the standards for Air Quality in India	
3.		Attempt any THREE of the following	12
	a)	Cyclone separator	4
		A clean gas	
		Dusti Din Din	



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h	Or Vortex finder Tangential inlet Dust outlet Dust outlet Working of flore (Thormel inginorator)	4
b)	Working of flare (Thermal incinerator) Flares are open flames used for disposing of waste gases during normal operations and emergencies. Flares are an open combustion process in which surrounding air supplies oxygen to the flame. They are operated either at ground level (usually with enclosed multiple burner heads) or at elevated positions. Elevated flares use steam injection to improve combustion by increasing mixing or turbulence and pulling in additional combustion air. Properly operated flares can achieve destruction efficiencies of at least 98%. Figure 1 is a schematic of the components of a flare system. Flares are typically used when the heating value of the waste gases cannot be recovered economically because of intermittent or uncertain flow or when the value of the recovered product is low. In some cases, flares are operated in conjunction with baseload gas recovery systems (e.g., condensers). Flares handle process upset and emergency gas releases that the baseload system is not designed to recover. Several types of flare exist. The most common are the steam assisted, air assisted, and pressure head flares. Typical flare operations can be classified as "smokeless," "nonsmokeless," and "fired" or "endothermic." For smokeless operation, flares use outside momentum sources (usually steam or air) to provide efficient gas–air mixing and turbulence for complete combustion. Smokeless flaring is required for the destruction of organics heavier than methane.	4



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	4. De-nitrification	
b)	Recovery of energy from waste	4 marks
	There are a number of other new and emerging technologies that are able to produce energy	for any
	from waste and other fuels without direct combustion. Many of these technologies have the	one
	potential to produce more electric power from the same amount of fuel than would be	method
	possible by direct combustion. This is mainly due to the separation of corrosive components	
	(ash) from the converted fuel, thereby allowing higher combustion temperatures in e.g.	
	boilers, gas turbines, internal combustion engines, fuel cells. Some are able to efficiently	
	convert the energy into liquid or gaseous fuels:	
	Thermal technologies:	
	Gasification: produces combustible gas, hydrogen, synthetic fuels	
	Thermal depolymerization: produces synthetic crude oil, which can be further refined	
	Pyrolysis: produces combustible tar/biooil and chars	
	Plasma arc gasification or plasma gasification process (PGP): produces rich syngas	
	including hydrogen and carbon monoxide usable for fuel cells or generating electricity to	
	drive the plasma arch, usable vitrified silicate and metal ingots, salt and sulphur	
	Landfill Gas Collection	
	Non-thermal technologies:	
	Anaerobic digestion: Biogas rich in methane	
	Fermentation production: examples are ethanol, lactic acid, hydrogen	
	Mechanical biological treatment (MBT)	
	MBT + Anaerobic digestion	
	MBT to Refuse derived fuel	
	Anaerobic digestion	
	Anaerobic biogas digesters are airtight reactors in which organic waste is decomposed and	
	transformed into biogas by a biological process called anaerobic digestion. Biogas is	
	recovered and transformed into heat or any other form of energy. The remaining sludge	
	contains many nutrients and can be used in agriculture (optionally after an aerobic post-	
	composting). Mainly in industrialized countries, this technology has been evolved over the	



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past centuries, resulting in various designs of different complexities. Facing the problem of municipal waste disposal and soaring fuel prices, low-tech set-ups, particularly adapted for developing countries have been developed today.

All biogas digesters are basically designed following the same process of anaerobic digestion. Anaerobic digestion is a four-stage process consisting of hydrolysis; fermentation (conversion of non-soluble organic biomass to soluble organic compounds); acidification (e conversion of soluble organic compounds to volatile fatty acids and CO2, followed by the conversion of volatile fatty acids to acetate and H2); and finally methane formation. The final product, biogas, is a mixture of methane (CH4), carbon dioxide (CO2) and other trace gases. There are many ways in which anaerobic digestion can occur. The simplest reactors are covered waste dumps, where anaerobic digestion can occur naturally in uncontrolled systems. As mentioned above, today there is a large range of different types and designs of anaerobic digester technologies for the treatment of organic waste available. Even though the process for all these technologies is always the same (i.e. anaerobic digestion), depending on the composition of the substrate and the volume of the waste stream, complexity of design, construction and operation vary strongly.

Energy recovery by thermal incineration

A waste-to-energy - or energy-from-waste - plant converts municipal and industrial solid waste into electricity and/or heat for industrial processing and for district heating systems – an ecologically sound, cost-effective means of energy recovery. The energy plant works by burning waste at high temperatures and using the heat to make steam. The steam then drives a turbine that creates electricity.

The typical incineration plant for municipal solid waste is a moving grate incinerator. The moving grate enables the movement of waste through the combustion chamber to be optimized to allow a more efficient and complete combustion. A single moving grate boiler can handle up to 35 metric tons (39 short tons) of waste per hour, and can operate 8,000 hours per year with only one scheduled stop for inspection and maintenance of about one month's duration. Moving grate incinerators are sometimes referred to as Municipal Solid



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	Waste Incinerators (MSWIs).	
	The waste is introduced by a waste crane through the "throat" at one end of the grate, from	l .
	where it moves down over the descending grate to the ash pit in the other end. Here the ash	l I
	is removed through a water lock.	l
	Municipal solid waste in the furnace of a moving grate incinerator capable of handling 15	l .
	metric tons (17 short tons) of waste per hour. The holes in the grate elements supplying the	l .
	primary combustion air are visible.	l .
	Part of the combustion air (primary combustion air) is supplied through the grate from	l
	below. This air flow also has the purpose of cooling the grate itself. Cooling is important for	l
	the mechanical strength of the grate, and many moving grates are also water-cooled	l
	internally.	l
	Secondary combustion air is supplied into the boiler at high speed through nozzles over the	l
	grate. It facilitates complete combustion of the flue gases by introducing turbulence for	l
	better mixing and by ensuring a surplus of oxygen. In multiple/stepped hearth incinerators,	l
	the secondary combustion air is introduced in a separate chamber downstream the primary	l
	combustion chamber. he flue gases are then cooled in the superheaters, where the heat is	l
	transferred to steam, heating the steam to typically 400 $^{\circ}$ C (752 $^{\circ}$ F) at a pressure of 40 bars	l
	(580 psi) for the electricity generation in the turbine. At this point, the flue gas has a	l
	temperature of around 200 °C (392 °F), and is passed to the flue gas cleaning system.	l
c)	Love Canal tragedy	4
	One of the most famous and important examples of groundwater pollution in the U.S. is	l .
	the Love Canal tragedy in Niagara Falls, New York. Love Canal is a neighborhood in	l .
	Niagara Falls named after a large ditch (approximately 15 m wide, 3-12 m deep, and 1600	l
	m long) that was dug in the 1890s for hydroelectric power. The ditch was abandoned before	l
	it actually generated any power and went mostly unused for decades, except for swimming	1
	by local residents. In the 1920s Niagara Falls began dumping urban waste into Love Canal,	1
	and in the 1940s the U.S. Army dumped waste from World War II there, including waste	1
	from the frantic effort to build a nuclear bomb. Hooker Chemical purchased the land in	1
	1942 and lined it with clay. Then, the company put into Love Canal an estimated 21,000	1
1		



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tons of hazardous chemical waste, including the carcinogens benzene, dioxin, and PCBs in large metal barrels and covered them with more clay. In 1953, Hooker sold the land to the Niagara Falls school board for \$1, and included a clause in the sales contract that both described the land use (filled with chemical waste) and absolved them from any future damage claims from the buried waste. The school board promptly built a public school on the site and sold the surrounding land for a housing project that built 200 or so homes along the canal banks and another 1,000 in the neighborhood (Figure 1). During construction, the canal's clay cap and walls were breached, damaging some of the metal barrels. Eventually, the chemical waste seeped into people's basements, and the metal barrels worked their way to the surface. Trees and gardens began to die; bicycle tires and the rubber soles of children's shoes disintegrated in noxious puddles. Public awareness of the disaster unfolded in the late 1970s when investigative newspaper coverage and grassroots door-to-door health surveys began to reveal a series of inexplicable illnesses—epilepsy, asthma, migraines, and nephrosis—and abnormally high rates of birth defects and miscarriages in the Love Canal neighborhood. As it turns out, consecutive wet winters in the late 1970s raised the water table and caused the chemicals to leach (via underground swales and a sewer system that drained into nearby creeks) into the basements

and yards of neighborhood residents, as well as into the playground of the elementary school built directly over the canal. President Jimmy Carter declared a state of emergency in 1978 and had the federal government relocate 239 families. This left 700 families who federal officials viewed as being at insufficient risk to warrant relocation, even though tests conducted by the NYS Department of Health revealed that toxic substances were leaching into their homes. After another hard battle, activists forced Carter to declare a second state of emergency in 1981, during which the remaining families were relocated. The total cost for relocation of all the families was \$17 million.

d)Benefits of ISO14000 (any 4)1 mark1. Efficiency, discipline and operational integration with ISO 9000each for2. Greater employee involvement in business operations with a more motivated workforceany four3. Easier to obtain operational permits and authorizations



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_	4. Assists in developing and transferring technology within the company	
	5. Helps reduce pollution	
	6. Fewer operating costs	
	7. Savings from safer workplace conditions	
	8. Reduction of costs associated with emissions, discharges, waste handling, transport &	
	disposal	
	9. Improvements in the product as a result of process changes	
	10. Safer products	
	11. Minimizes hazardous and non-hazardous waste	
	12. Conserves natural resources - electricity, gas, space and water with resultant cost	
	savings	
e)	Activated sludge process	2
	Principle - a biological wastewater treatment process which speeds up waste	
	decomposition. Activated sludge is added to wastewater, and the mixture is aerated and	
	agitated. After a certain amount oftime, the activated sludge is allowed to settle out by	
	sedimentation and is disposed of (wasted) or reused (returned to the aeration tank)	
	Working	
	A basic activated sludge process consists of several interrelated components:	
	• An aeration tank where the biological reactions occur	
	• An aeration source that provides oxygen and mixing	
	• A tank, known as the clarifier, where the solids settle and are separated from treated	
	wastewater	
	Aerobic bacteria thrive as they travel through the aera- tion tank. They multiply rapidly with	
	sufficient food and oxygen. By the time the waste reaches the end of the tank (between four	
	to eight hours), the bacteria has used most of the organic matter to produce new cells. The	
	organisms settle to the bottom of the clarifier tank, separating from the clearer water. This	
	sludge is pumped back to the aeration tank where it is mixed with the incoming wastewater	
	or removed from the system as excess, a process called wasting. The relatively clear liquid	
	above the sludge, the supernatant, is sent on for further treatment as required	



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less than 15 cm may be satisfactory if the refuse has been pulverized. When a number of

cells reach the final desired elevation, a final cover of about one meters of earth is placed

and it is again compacted. This final cover is necessary to prevent rodents from burrowing



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	_	into the refuse. The following figure is shows the cross-sectional area of a typical sanitary	
		landfill.	
6.		Attempt any TWO of the following	12
	a)	Food Chain	2
		In scientific terms, a food chain is a chronological pathway or an order that shows the flow	3
		of energy from one organism to the other. In a community which has producers, consumers,	
		and decomposers, the energy flows in a specific pathway. Energy is not created or	
		destroyed. But it flows from one level to the other, through different organisms.	
		A food chain shows a single pathway from the producers to the consumers and how the	
		energy flows in this pathway. In the animal kingdom, food travels around different levels.	
		To understand a food chain better, let us take a look at the terrestrial ecosystem. The sun is	
		the source of energy, which is the initial energy source. This is used by the producers or	
		plants to create their own food, through photosynthesis and grow. Next in this chain is	
		another organism, which is the consumer that eats this food, taking up that energy. The	
		primary consumers are the organisms that consume the primary producers. In a terrestrial	
		ecosystem, it could be a herbivore like a cow or a goat or it could even be a man. When a	
		goat is consumed by man, he becomes the secondary consumer.	
		Example of food chain	
		Grass (Producer) ——Goat (Primary Consumer) —— Man (Secondary consumer)	
		When dead organic matter becomes the starting of a food chain, then it is called the detritus	
		food chain (DFC). The decomposers, which are the fungi and bacteria, feed on the organic	
		matter to meet the energy requirements. The digestive enzymes secreted by the	
		decomposers help in the breakdown of the organic matter into inorganic materials.	
		Food Web	
		Food webs consist of a number of food chains meshed together. An organism may be the	
		pray for many other organisms. E.g. an bug feeds upon leaves of various plants but the same	
		insect is pray for different animals like frog, mouse etc. If this is to be shown in a figure it	3
		will form an intricate web instead of linear food chain such an intricate network is called as	
		food web.	



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	In the preheat section, only the pollutant gas stream is heated to the temperature required to	
	support catalytic combustion. The preheated gas is then passed through the catalyst bed	
	where the combustion occurs. To maintain the catalyst in an active state and to achieve	
	complete combustion about 1% excess oxygen is required. Product gases are simple	
	compounds like carbon dioxide and water.	
c)	Trickling Filter	
	A trickling filter is a type of water pollution treatment system. It consists of a fixed bed of	4
	rocks, lava, coke, gravel, slag, polyurethane foam, sphagnum peat moss, ceramic, or plastic	
	media over which sewage or other wastewater flows downward and causes a layer of	
	microbial slime (biofilm) to grow, covering the bed of media. Aerobic conditions are	
	maintained by splashing, diffusion, and either by forced air flowing through the bed or	
	natural convection of air if the filter medium is porous.	
	The terms trickle filter, trickling biofilter, biofilter, biological filter and biological trickling	
	filter are often used to refer to a trickling filter. These systems have also been described as	
	roughing filters, intermittent filters, packed media bed filters, alternative septic systems,	
	percolating filters, attached growth processes, and fixed film processes.	
	Construction:-	
	The retaining structure for trickling filters is usually a circular wall constructed of	
	reinforced concrete, concrete block, or vitrified clay blocks. These walls may be constructed	
	with openings or may be solid. With solid walls the filter can be flooded to correct some	
	operational problems while walls with openings provide better ventilation of the filter	
	media. Various materials have been used for filter media. Hard stone (dolomite, hard	
	limestone, and quartzite, etc.), various ceramics, redwood blocks or slats, and more recently	
	synthetic (plastic) media of various kinds have been used. Historically stone media has been	
	most commonly used. The new types of synthetic plastic media provide some advantages	
	over stone. These advantages include greater surface area per cubic foot and a higher	
	percentage of void spaces. This allows for greater hydraulic and organic loads. Common	
	rock media is less expensive than plastic. A rotating arm is provide to sprinkle waste water	
	over the top.	
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Work	ing:-	
•	The wastewater in trickling filter is distributed over the top area of a vessel	
	containing non-submerged packing material.	
•	Air circulation in the void space, by either natural draft or blowers, provides oxygen	
	for the microorganisms growing as an attached biofilm.	
•	During operation, the organic material present in the wastewater is metabolised by	
	the biomass attached to the medium. The biological slime grows in thickness as the	
	organic matter abstracted from the flowing wastewater is synthesized into new	
	cellular material.	
•	The thickness of the aerobic layer is limited by the depth of penetration of oxygen	
	into the microbial layer.	
•	The micro-organisms near the medium face enter the endogenous phase as the	
	substrate is metabolised before it can reach the micro-organisms near the medium	
	face as a result of increased thickness of the slime layer and loose their ability to	
	cling to the media surface. The liquid then washes the slime off the medium and a	
	new slime layer starts to grow. This phenomenon of losing the slime layer is called	
	sloughing.	
•	The sloughed off film and treated wastewater are collected by an underdrainage	
	which also allows circulation of air through filter. The collected liquid is passed to a	
	settling tank used for solid- liquid separation.	
sprinkler filter feed pipe- filter supp collection	ort effluent channel	2