

TOPIC -11

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**AGRICULTURE IMPORTANT
TOPIC FOR IBPS AFO**

**SELECTED BY ANALYSING
PREVIOUS YEAR
QUESTION PAPER.**



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Which of the following Soil horizon is also known as 'Zone of Illuviation'? (IBPS AFO-2019-20)

- A horizon
- B horizon
- C horizon
- O horizon
- E horizon

Ans: - B horizon

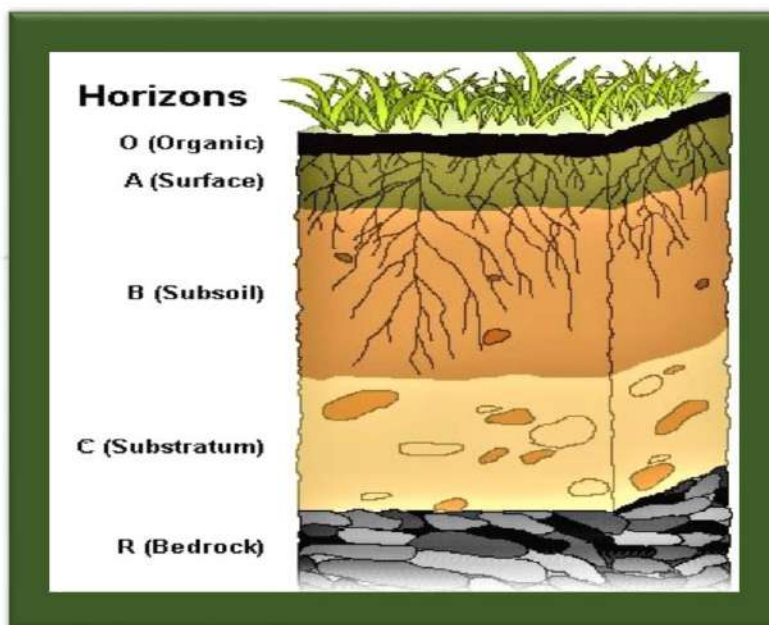
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Soil Profiles



Soil formation begins first with the breakdown of rock into Regolith. Continued weathering and soil horizon development process leads to the development of a ***soil profile***, the vertical display of soil horizons.

Soil Profiles

‘O’ Horizon

- At the top of the profile is the ‘O’ horizon.
- The ‘O’ horizon is primarily composed of organic matter.

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- **Organic horizon is present above mineral soils.**
- **It is generally found in forest areas.**
- **Such 'O' horizon is visible in virgin soil and absent in arable soils.**

'A' (Eluvial) horizon (Zone of Eluviation)

- **'A' horizon having sub horizons:-**

a) Al Horizon: It is uppermost mineral soil horizon rich in organic matter.

**b) 'E' or 'A₂'
Horizon: It is**

- **Beneath the 'O' horizon is the 'A' horizon.**
- **The 'A' horizon marks the beginning of the true mineral soil.**
- **The 'A' horizon typically is dark coloured horizon due to the presence organic matter.**

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Horizon of maximum eluviations of clay, Fe & Al oxides.

C) 'AB' or 'EB' horizon: It is Transition horizon between A/E and B (also called A₃).

- **Eluviation, the removal of inorganic and organic substances from a horizon by leaching occurs in the 'A' horizon.**
- **Eluviation is driven by the downward movement of soil water.**
- **'A' (Eluvial) horizons is the top most mineral horizon.**
- **Containing mixtures of organic matter which tends imparts a darker colour than that of the lower horizon.**
- **It is zone of washing**

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out/maximum leaching.

- Mobilization of nutrients takes place.

**‘B’ (Illuvial) horizon /
‘Zone of Illuviation’
(IBPS AFO-2019-20)**

- Beneath the ‘E’ horizon lies the ‘B’ horizon.
- The ‘B’ horizon is a ‘zone of illuviation’ where downward moving, especially fine material, is accumulated.
- ‘B’ (Illuvial) horizon is the zone of washing in or horizon of maximum accumulation (immobilization) of materials such as Fe and Al oxides

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and silicate clays takes place.

- Deposition of CaCO_3 , CaSO_4 and other salts in arid zones.
- This horizon some time also referred to as sub soil.
- It can't be cultivated by tillage operation.

'C' horizon

- It is unconsolidated material underlying the Solum (A & B) horizon.
- It is zone of least weathering.
- Accumulation of Ca, Mg carbonates, and cementation.

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- **The C horizon represents the soil parent material, either created in situ or transported into its present location.**
- **Beneath the C horizon lies bedrock.**

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