

WJEC (Eduqas) Biology A-level

Topic 1.6 - Human Impact on the Environment

Definitions and Concepts

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Agricultural exploitation - The increase in efficiency and intensity of food production in order to meet growing demands.

Conservation - The maintenance of ecosystems and biodiversity by humans in order to preserve the Earth's resources. The conservation of species requires the preservation of gene pools.

Deforestation - The removal of trees from land which is subsequently used to grow crops or provide space for cattle.

Endangered - Describes a species that due to a loss of habitat or rapid decrease in population numbers is at risk of extinction.

Extinction - The death of all living members of a species.

Fish farming - The breeding of fish commercially in enclosures for food to combat overfishing.

Gene pool - All of the different versions of genes (alleles) in the individuals that make up a population.

Overfishing - The excessive fishing of an area at a rate which exceeds potential replenishment of the species.

Planetary boundaries - A set of nine limits proposed by a group of environmental and Earth system sciences within which human activity can operate without risk of irreversible damage to the planet.

Sustainable - The ability to maintain something for future generations.

