

# Edexcel Biology IGCSE

## 4.d - Human Influences on the Environment

### Flashcards

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What detrimental impacts can sulfur dioxide have on the environment?



# What detrimental impacts can sulfur dioxide have on the environment?

- Formed when fossil fuels containing impurities are burnt
- Sulfur dioxide can dissolve in water to form acid rain which can erode buildings and pollute water sources



What detrimental impacts can carbon monoxide have on the environment?



## What detrimental impacts can carbon monoxide have on the environment?

- Carbon monoxide is formed from the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels
- Carbon monoxide binds irreversibly to haemoglobin which prevents it from carrying oxygen
- Too much exposure can cause unconsciousness and death



Name 5 greenhouse gases



## Name 5 greenhouse gases

- Water vapour
- Carbon dioxide
- Nitrous oxide
- Methane
- CFCs



Give 3 human activities that contribute to greenhouse gases





Give 3 human activities that contribute to greenhouse gases

- Burning fossil fuels
- Deforestation
- Large scale livestock farming



# How do greenhouse gases lead to global warming?



# How do greenhouse gases lead to global warming?

- Greenhouse gases allow heat from the sun to enter the atmosphere
- The gases act as a 'blanket' and trap the heat in the atmosphere



State 3 negative consequences of global warming



## State 3 negative consequences of global warming

- Sea level rise caused by melting icebergs
- Disrupted farming and agriculture
- Increased spread of diseases in warmer climates



Describe how sewage in waterways can affect aquatic life



Describe how sewage in waterways can affect aquatic life

Microorganisms that decompose sewage will use up the oxygen in the water so that there is not enough oxygen left for respiration for other aquatic organisms.



# What is eutrophication?





# What is eutrophication?

An excess of nutrients in a body of water, often due to fertilisers in the water source.



# Why is eutrophication bad for aquatic life?



Why is eutrophication bad for aquatic life?

It causes an 'algal bloom' which decreases oxygen supplies in the water and degrades the water quality.



State 5 negative effects of deforestation  
(Higher)



## State 5 negative effects of deforestation (Higher)

- Leaching
- Less CO<sub>2</sub> taken out of the atmosphere from photosynthesis
- Soil erosion
- Habitat disruption
- Disruption of the carbon cycle



# What is leaching? (Higher)



## What is leaching? (Higher)

Trees usually take up lots of nutrients. When lots of trees are cut down, these nutrients can leak out into waterways. Large quantities of nutrients in waterways can cause problems like algal blooms.



# What is evapotranspiration? (Higher)





What is evapotranspiration? (Higher)

Evapotranspiration is the process involving trees providing lots of water to the atmosphere from the soil through evaporation and transpiration.



What effect does deforestation have on  
evapotranspiration?  
(Higher)



What effect does deforestation have on evapotranspiration? (**Higher**)

- Less trees means that there will be less evapotranspiration
- This means that less water will be returned to the atmosphere as quickly
- This causes areas to dry up

