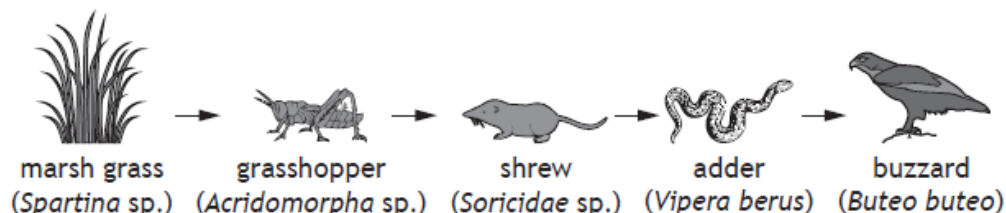


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MARGIN**Total marks – 100 marks****Attempt ALL questions****Questions 8 and 9 each contain a choice**

1. A typical Scottish marshland food chain is shown.



- (a) Marsh grass is a green plant that produces biomass.

- (i) A green plant that can produce its own biomass can be referred to as a producer.

State one other term that describes such an organism.

1

Example

Primary producer

- (ii) Suggest the season in which green plants will produce the most biomass.

Explain your answer.

3

Example 1

Summer as green plants get the most sunlight during this time of year. During this time they photosynthesise the most, it is also the time where animals and all organisms and micro-organisms are seen the most out of their homes as it is warmer weather, during cold/winter they shelter. These organisms will feed onto green plants which would ^{supporting} release nutrients into the soil → keeps the soil formation. = therefore produces more green plants

Example 2

the spring, due to warmer temperatures and more sunlight, resulting in more grass being produced, animals also grazing which help cut down other ~~of~~ on dominant plants. Meaning more space, sunlight and water for the green plants.

Example 3

green plants produce the most biomass in spring because this is the season with the most sun and rain, ~~it is also~~ so they are able to photosynthesise more. It is also the season that plants start to grow more.

(b) The ecological efficiency in a food chain can be calculated.

(i) Define *ecological efficiency*.

1

Example 1

The amount of energy that can be passed on ~~to~~ between trophic levels.

Example 2

the ~~trophic levels~~ amount of energy used between each trophic level.

(ii) 5 000 000 kJ m⁻² of energy falls on the marshland ecosystem.

8% of this energy is assimilated by marsh grass.

The grasshopper then consumes the marsh grass, assimilating 6% of the available energy.

Calculate how much energy the grasshopper assimilates from the marsh grass.

2

Example

$$5\,000\,000 \times \frac{8}{100} = 400\,000$$

$$400\,000 \times \frac{6}{100} = 24\,000$$

- (iii) Explain why only a small percentage of energy passes to the next trophic level.

1

- (c) Areas of Scottish marshland are under threat from human activities.

Rewilding practices, such as the reintroduction of native species, have been used to initiate or accelerate the recovery of habitats or ecosystems.

State two other activities used in rewilding.

2

Example 1

Afforestation - where trees are planted.

Reintroduction of non-native species

Example 2

two other activities used in rewilding is protecting land and making sure that it not disrupted by human activities

Another activity to introduce rewilding is to stop habitat fragment + cutting down trees and isolating the species in one area this would reduce the species population endangering them.

Another activities is due to motor way disturbance it creates habitat fragments to stop a species from being isolated or getting killed by cars when wanting to go to the other side

create

Example 3

reintroduction of natural predators to control populations of species that are out of hand.

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MARGIN

2. The Earth's internal heat drives the system of currents circulating in both the mantle and the core.

- (a) (i) State the name given to describe these circulation currents.

1

Example

gyres

- (ii) Explain how the Earth's internal heat drives the movement of material within the mantle.

2

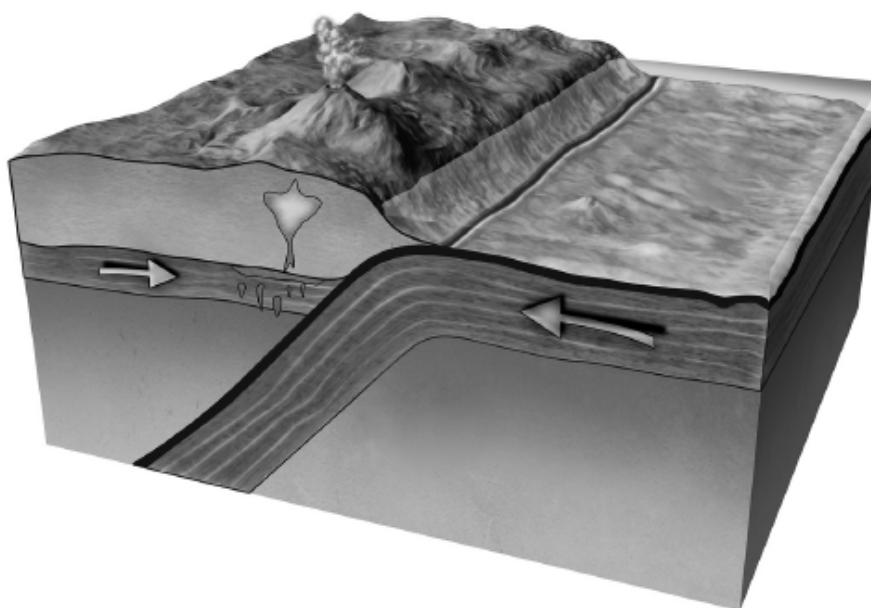
Example 1

Earth's heat causes the convection currents to happen, and therefore material is moved throughout the mantle.

Example 2

When the material is heated by the earth it moves closer to the surface and cooler melted rock is pulled down to replace it until it becomes hot enough and travels back up to the surface.

- (b) The circulation patterns are responsible for plate tectonics. The diagram shows the interaction of tectonic plates at a subduction zone.



- (i) Name the type of plate boundary shown in the diagram.

1

- (ii) Describe the processes occurring at a subduction zone that result in volcanic activity.

4

Example 1

When the heavier oceanic plate goes underneath the continental plate a subduction zone is created which brings down sediments from the sea. A subduction zone has high levels of explosive gas present which causes the magma to rise through faults in the earth's surface and explode as a volcano.

Example 2

The oceanic crust moves under the continental crust, resulting in a subduction zone. Magma rises through faults in the earth's surface as volcanoes. If the magma cools outside the earth's surface it is known as extrusive rock, if the magma cools inside the earth's surface it is known as intrusive rock.



- (c) Ores rich in aluminium oxide are found in extractable quantities in areas associated with subduction zones.

- (i) Name an ore that is rich in aluminium oxide.

1

- (ii) Smelting is a process by which metal is obtained from its ore by heating it beyond the melting point.

Explain one environmental issue associated with the smelting of aluminium-rich ores.

2

Example 1

The ore has to be transported to the smelting site through the use of combustion engines which emit CO₂.

Electrolysis is a process used to melt which uses up lots of energy, due to the high melting point.

Example 2

- gives off greenhouse gases
- ~~needs~~ requires a lot of energy.

- (d) Villarrica, a volcano located in a glaciated area in Chile, erupted in 2015. The eruption had a major impact on the hydrosphere and other Earth systems.



Suggest one possible impact of a volcanic eruption on

- (i) the hydrosphere

1

Example 1

Volcanic ash/dust getting into local bodies of water/ rivers which causes contamination

Example 2

gases given off and rocks and
dust being launched into ~~water~~ nearby
water

- (ii) natural climate change.

1

Example 1

can cause a short period of
cooling as dust particles
block out sunlight.

Example 2

harmful gases given off

- (e) Natural climate change has both long-term and short-term impacts.

Explain a social impact of a prolonged period of hot, dry weather.

2

Example 1

This type of weather will cause
droughts which will limit the
growth of crops. This means
there will be less availability
of ~~that~~ some food products.

Example 2

- causes droughts
- ~~hard~~ crops will die
- decreases crop growth

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3. A town in India has built a sewage treatment facility to reduce the volume of untreated sewage being released into waterways.

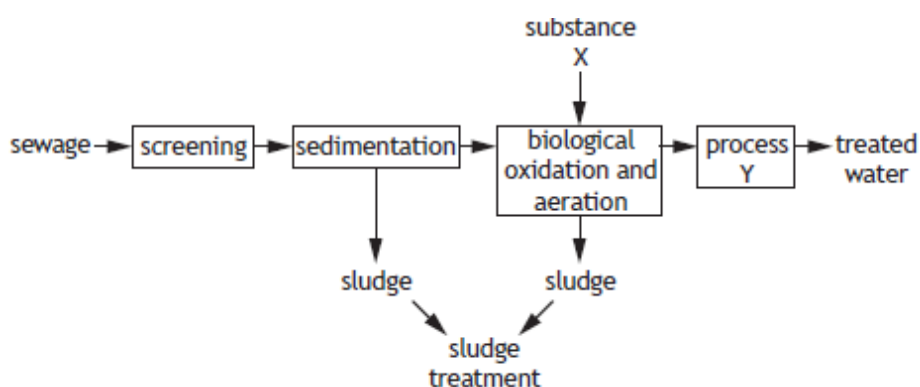
(a) State the term used to describe the liquid part of the waste material. 1

Example

sewage

- (b) At the sewage treatment facility, sewage goes through a series of processes before being released back into the environment.

The processes are shown in the flow diagram.



- (i) Using information in the flow diagram, identify

(A) substance X

1

Example

effluent

(B) process Y.

1

Example

tertiary treatment.

- (ii) The preliminary stage involves the screening process.

Describe what happens to the sewage during this process.

1

Example 1

Big lumps are removed

Example 2

the sewage gets screened so all
of the large clumps^{of waste} can't go any
further.

- (iii) Describe how the sludge can be treated in order to produce a named resource.

2

Example 1

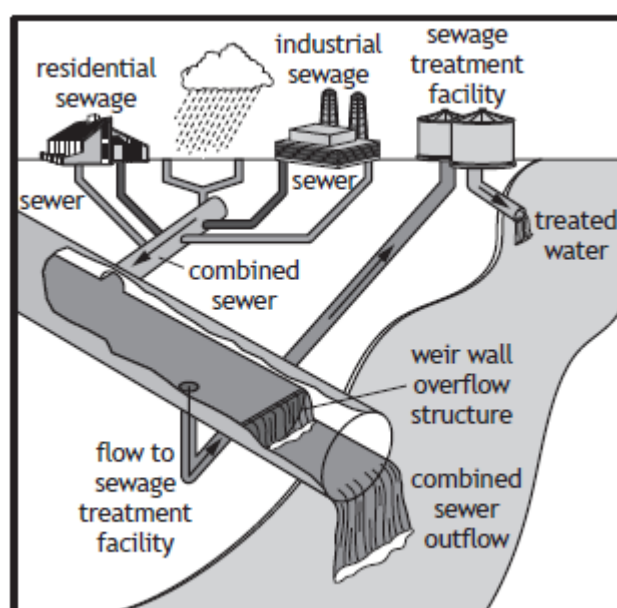
Sludge can be broken down over time by ^{bacteria} microorganisms. The breakdown of this causes the gas methane to become present which can be harvested and sold

Example 2

heat it to kill the bacteria off
or add chemicals to kill bacteria.

- (c) During periods of heavy rainfall the sewage system occasionally overflows, leading to high volumes of untreated waste being released into the river.

The sewage system during heavy rainfall is shown in the diagram.



- (i) The diagram shows liquid waste material being discharged from the combined sewer outflow into the river.

State whether this is an example of point or diffuse pollution.

Justify your response.

1

Example

Type of pollution

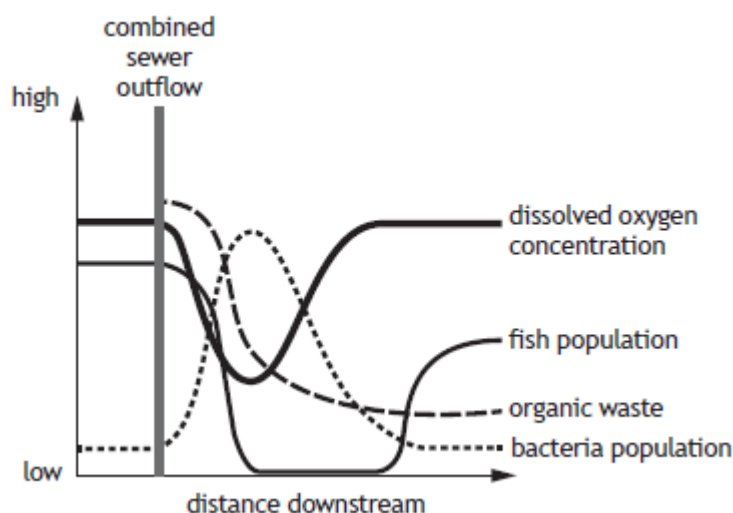
diffuse

Justification

it's difficult to tell where the pollution is coming from, due to the mixing of the treated water and the sewage downstream.

- (ii) Untreated waste was discharged into the river during a period of heavy rainfall.

Environmental scientists measured four factors along the river: dissolved oxygen concentration, fish population, organic waste, and bacteria population. The trends are shown in the diagram.



Using all the information in the diagram, explain the reasons for the trend in fish population.

4

Example 1

As the bacteria population rose downstream this caused the fish population to plummet because the oxygen concentration was too low to sustain the fish demand. Further downstream once the organic waste had been broken down, this caused the bacteria population to decline which meant the oxygen concentration ~~was~~ increased which meets the fish demand.

Example 2

as the dissolved oxygen concentration decreased so did the fish population due to the sewer outflow causing an algal bloom, which increases the bacteria population. As you go further down the stream the sewer outflow isn't as concentrated to organic waste, so the dissolved oxygen concentration, fish population and bacteria population go back to normal. The bacteria increase when the sewage is in the water whereas the other factors decrease.

Example 3

As the dissolved oxygen concentration decreased so did the fish population decrease drastically. However, as the dissolved oxygen concentration increased the fish population increased. Another affect the distributed to the fish population decreasing organic waste bacteria population. This created algae on the top layer of the river blocking out sunlight therefore less oxygen was in the river for the fish population. Then blocking out the sunlight would create diseases reducing fish population.

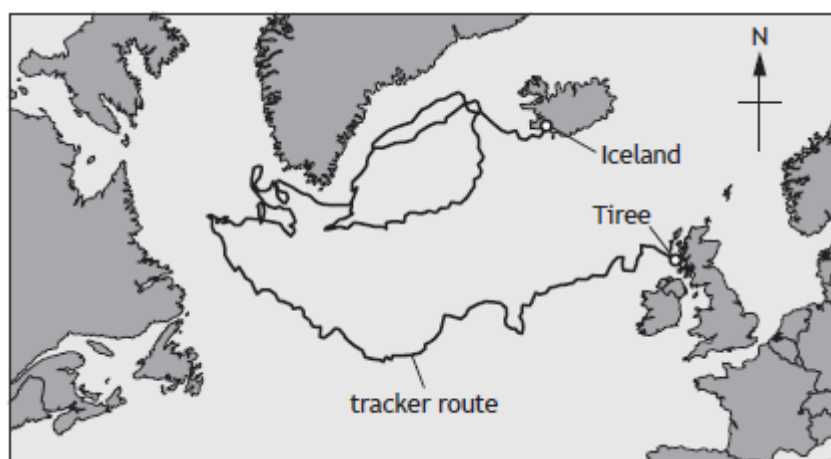
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4. Marine scientists studying ocean currents in the North Atlantic released a tracker device from the southern shores of Iceland in January 2016.

The tracker was discovered on the Isle of Tiree, Scotland in January 2017.

The map shows the path the tracker travelled.



- (a) (i) Name a factor that can influence oceanic circulation.

1

Example

~~surface winds~~ ~~Coriolis effect~~

- (ii) Explain the effect the factor named in (i) has on oceanic circulation.

2

Example 1

~~The winds can blow the oceanic circulation of course.~~
~~the Coriolis effect, effects the~~
~~at direction of oceanic circulation.~~
~~In the southern hemisphere it~~
~~the surface winds can change the~~
~~direction of surface oceanic circulation~~
~~and cause it to flow another way, causing~~
~~the ocean circulation not to go round the~~
~~land causing it to change direction~~
~~it to go off~~

Example 2

As freshwater is drawn out
the saltier water becomes
heavier. New water rises
to replace the salty water
which sinks, this creates
a current.

- (b) The table shows the distance the GPS tracker travelled each month.

Month	Distance travelled (km)
1	1653
2	1448
3	1428
4	1135
5	883
6	841
7	879
8	892
9	1097
10	1536
11	1096
12	1727

Calculate the mean distance travelled by the tracker each month.

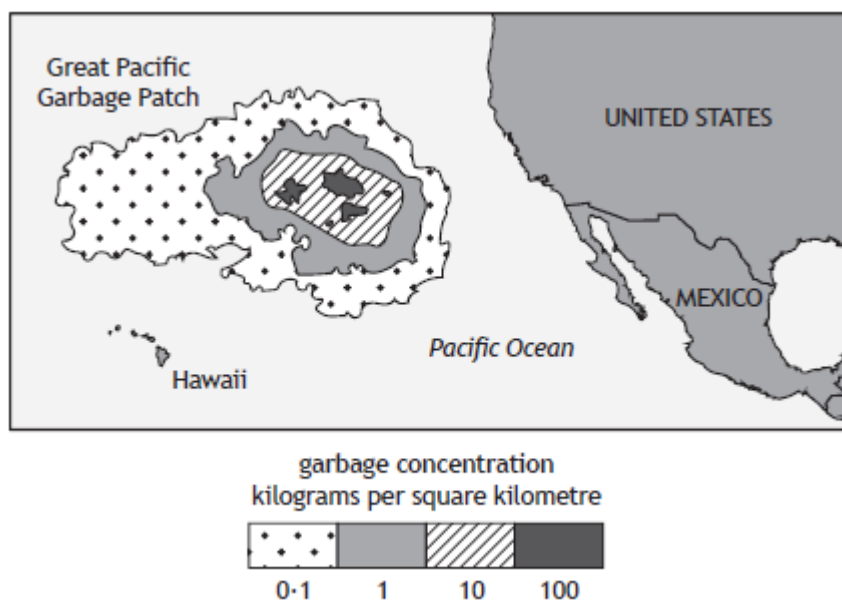
1

Example

$$\begin{array}{r}
 14615 \div 12 \\
 = 1217.916 \\
 \underline{1218}
 \end{array}$$

- (c) Ocean gyres often trap and accumulate large volumes of waste. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch located off the west coast of North America is the largest of these.

The diagram below shows the approximate location and size of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.



- (i) Define the term *ocean gyre*. 1
- (ii) Suggest why there is a greater concentration of garbage towards the centre of the patch. 1
- (iii) A study in 2018 investigated plastic waste circulating in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. The estimated composition of this waste is shown in the table.

Type of plastic	Size (cm)	Number of items per km ²
Micro-plastics	<0.50	678 000
Meso-plastics	0.50–5.00	22 000
Macro-plastics	5.01–50.00	690
Mega-plastics	>50.00	4

Calculate the percentage of the total waste per km² made up by plastics less than 5.01 cm in size. 1

Example

$$\begin{aligned}
 &678\,000 + 22\,000 \\
 &= 700\,000 \text{ total waste } < 5.01 \text{ cm} \\
 &\text{total waste} = 700\,694 \\
 &700\,000 \div 700\,694 \times 100 = 99.76\%
 \end{aligned}$$

- (iv) Plastics in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch have been assessed since the 1970s, and the research shows that the proportion of micro-plastics is increasing.

Suggest why marine micro-plastics are increasing over time.

1

Example 1

because of bioaccumulation.

Example 2

population increase
More people are consuming more products
at a rapid pace, such as fast fashion, plastics,
unsustainable product = population increase = more population
demand.

- (v) Explain an impact that plastics accumulating in a marine environment will have on biodiversity.

2

Example 1

It will have a negative impact as marine life will mistake plastics for food which can kill them. This will cause bioaccumulation which can kill species further up the food chain.

Example 2

it will impact populations if more plastic is being consumed by organisms.
it will also destroy habitats if there is a build up of plastics, causing their habitats to be uninhabitable.

Example 3

An impact would be that the micro-plastics found in the sea are consumed by the marine species, this then has a detrimental affect on them, as it can suffocate/kill/shorten life-span on the marine species = thus decreasing biodiversity.

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5. Crop production depends on physical factors, including availability of arable land, as well as consumer demand and economics.

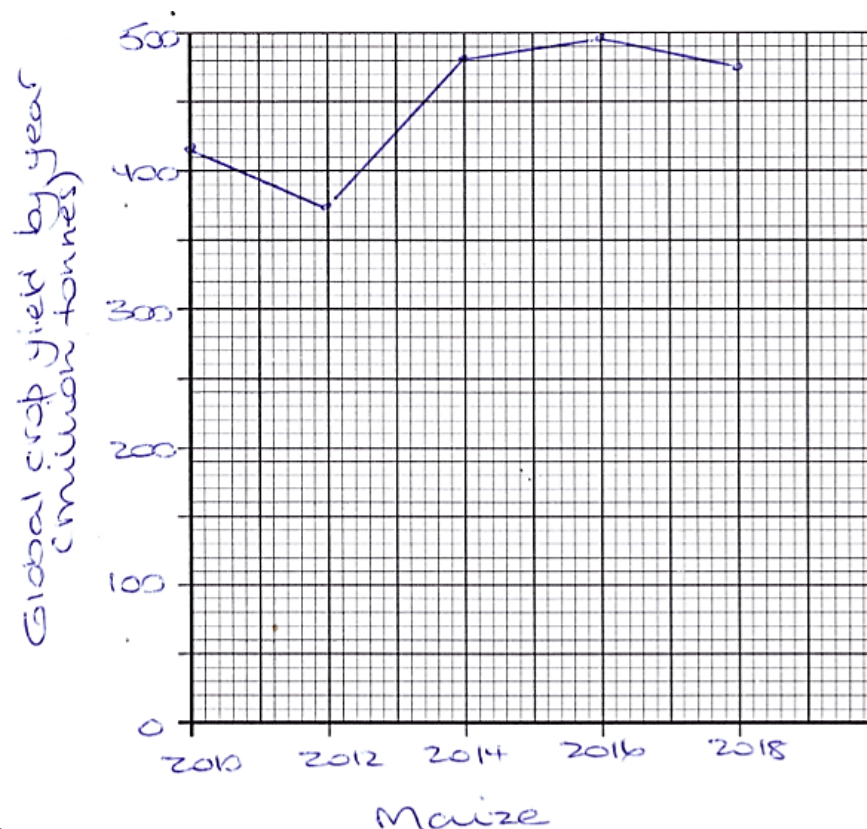
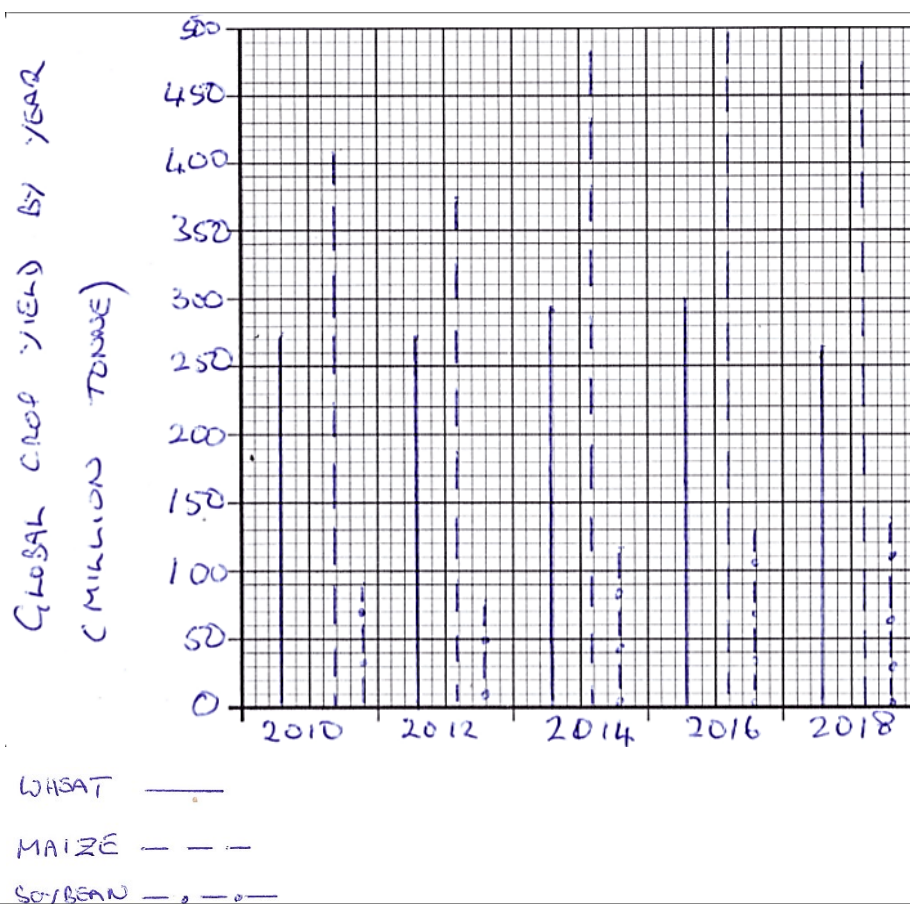
The table shows global yields of major crops by year.

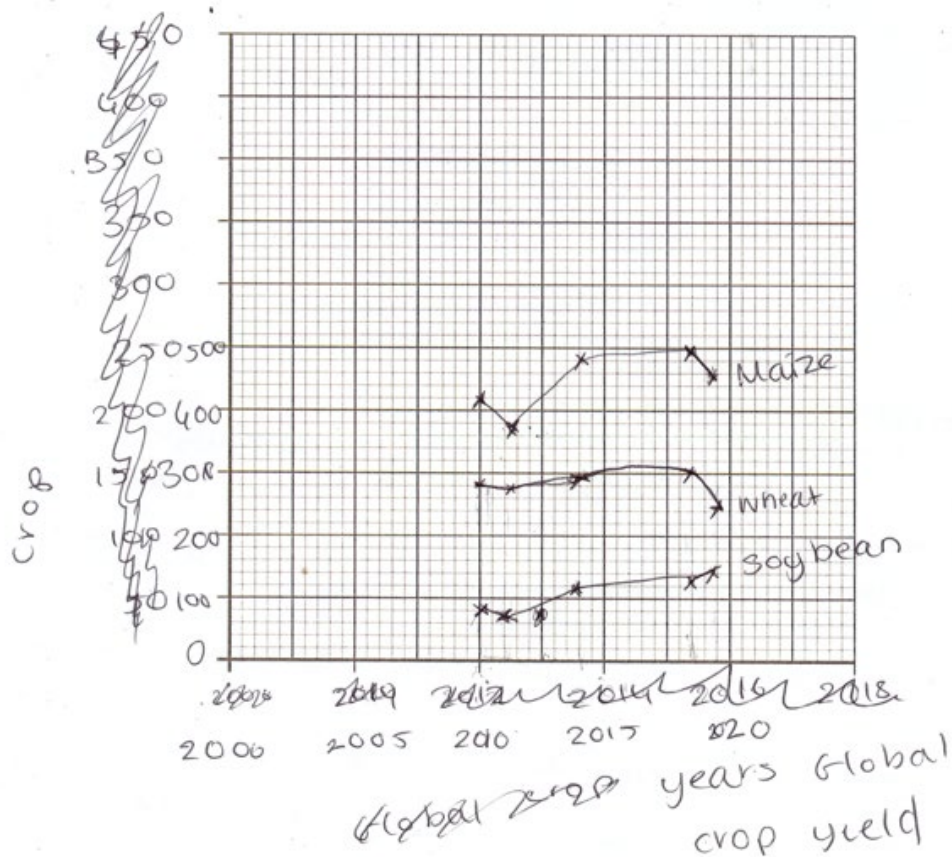
Table 1

Crop	Global crop yield by year (million tonnes)				
	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018
Wheat	275	273	292	300	267
Maize	418	375	482	499	477
Soybean	97	90	116	127	137

- (a) Using information from the table, draw a line graph to show the crop yield for maize between 2010 and 2018.

3

Example 1:**Example 2:**

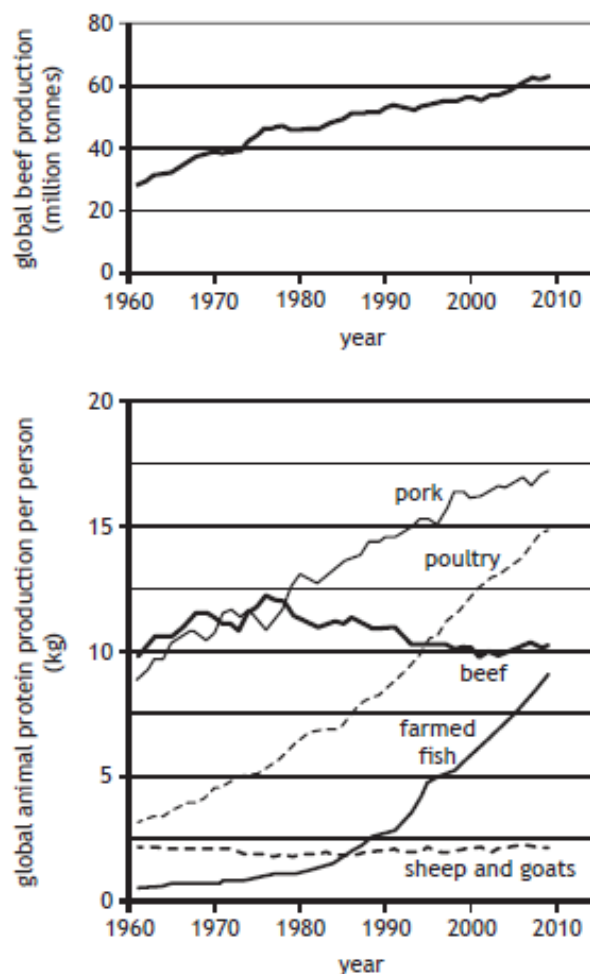
Example 3:

- (b) Suggest a reason for the change in global wheat yield between 2016 and 2018.

1

- (c) Global consumption of animal protein is on the rise.

The graphs show global been production and global animal protein production per person between 1960 and 2010.



- (i) Explain the difference in the trends in beef production shown in these two trends.

2

Example 1

Beef production is increasing in the first graph whereas in the 2nd the protein production per person is slowly decreasing.

Example 2

in graph one from just after 1960 to 2010 global beef production increases but in graph two from just after 1960 to 2010 the global animal protein production per person isn't increasing as much as other meat.

- (ii) Between 1960 and 1980, the trends for beef and pork production per person were similar.

Suggest a reason for the change in the trends of global beef and pork production per person after 1980.

1

Example 1

Pork ~~is~~^{is} cheaper to produce.

Example 2

they became more well known later on in the year and people want to try them becoming more popular.

- (d) Meat production per person is predicted to increase significantly in developing countries.

Suggest two reasons for this prediction.

2

Example 1

1 increasing population

2 to increasing migration to different countries.

Example 2

1 increase in demand for meat as a preferred food source.

2 Meat is a more expensive food source

- (e) Meat production accounts for an estimated 15% of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, including methane and nitrous oxide.

Other than meat production, name an anthropogenic source of

- (i) methane

1

Example

steam methane reforming in the production of hydrogen as a fuel source.

- (ii) nitrous oxide

1

Example 1

burning of dead livestock

Example 2

cars and the vehicles

MARKS

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6. Alternative sources of energy are being explored to replace fossil fuels. Hydrogen is one such fuel.

(a) (i) Name one method of producing hydrogen for use in fuel cells.

1

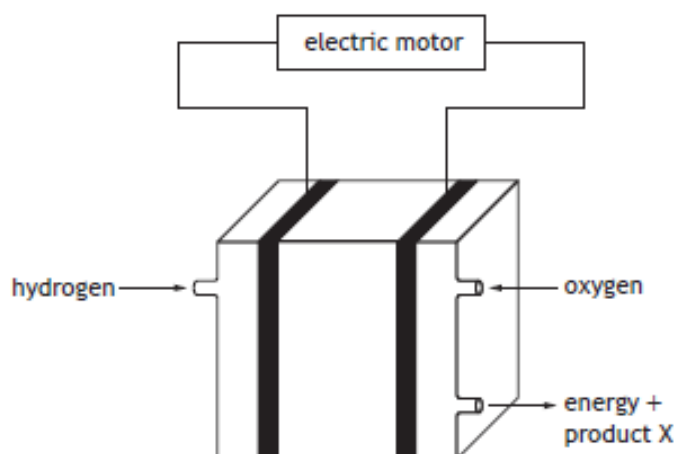
(ii) Describe this method of producing hydrogen.

2

Example

This is where the cells are split into two. Hydrogen and oxygen.

- (b) Energy can be generated from hydrogen using a fuel cell, as shown in the diagram.



(i) Name the substance represented by product X in the diagram.

1

(ii) Describe how a fuel cell generates electricity.

1

Example 1

Hydrogen + oxygen react together this creates energy, with the only by product being water.

Example 2

oxygen + hydrogen is put into the fuel cell, the electric motor, helps bind the two chemicals together to produce energy.

- (c) Explain why generating electricity from hydrogen may not be considered environmentally sustainable.

2

Example 1

It may come from sources
such as burning natural gas,
which emits carbon.
If it comes from electrolysis
the energy to power this may
not be renewable.

Example 2

- it uses a lot of ^{energy} electricity
- expensive to ~~make~~ run
- hydrogen

- (d) A fuel company is considering installing fuelling stations throughout the UK for hydrogen-powered vehicles.

Describe two advantages of using hydrogen as a fuel.

2

Example 1

Hydrogen fuel cells can be
refilled quickly.

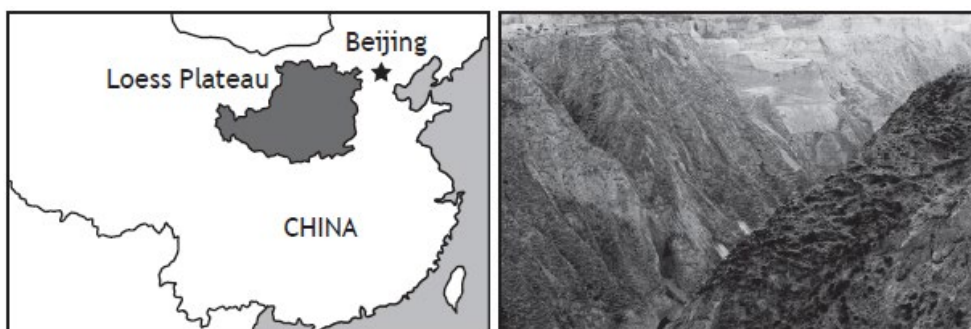
Hydrogen power does not
emit any greenhouse gasses.

Example 2

- renewable
- if there is a spillage it will
be less damaging than ^{fossil} normal fuel.
- less produces less pollution than ^{fossil} ~~normal~~ fuels.

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7. The Loess Plateau in China is one of the most severely eroded areas in the world.



Around 80% of the area has been affected by exposure to strong winds and heavy precipitation, deforestation, uncontrolled grazing, and agricultural cultivation on the steep slopes.

The erosion is a constant threat to the livelihoods of rural families and a major problem for the ecosystem and environment.

- (a) Loess is composed of wind-blown silt sediments. Loess deposits in this area can be as much as 330 metres deep.

Name the type of weathering that leads to the formation of loess deposits.

1

Example

chemical weathering

- (b) In 1986, the Chinese Government introduced a plan to reduce the impacts of erosion on the Loess Plateau and to improve the ecological environment. One way of doing this was the trial planting of different types of trees and shrubs.

- (i) From the information above, identify

(A) a policy

1

Example

reduce the impacts of erosion
and improve the ecological
environment

(B) a strategy

1

Example

Plant different types of
trees and shrubs.

- (ii) Suggest why planting was undertaken rather than allowing natural succession to proceed.

1

- (c) *Caragana korshinskii* was found to be one of the most successful plant species in the trials. It is a native desert shrub with strong drought resistance. It is also a leguminous species, able to convert atmospheric nitrogen into a form that can be used by plants.

- (i) Nitrogen content of soil is an edaphic factor.

State what is meant by an *edaphic factor*.

1

Example 1

Something which is in the soil

Example 2

is a factor that makes up the soil.

- (ii) Explain why soil nutrients such as nitrogen are important in terms of reducing erosion.

2

Example

the more compact the soil is with nutrients the ~~more~~ less likely it is to erode.
the nutrients might take a while to break down ~~away~~ to ~~sett~~ ~~off~~ ~~then~~ once being ~~sett~~ interacted with water so erosion takes longer to occur.

- (d) Slope can directly affect soil condition and the vegetation it can support.

Describe a method for measuring slope.

2

Example

Using an inclinometer.
Set up the equipment at the top of the slope and ^{over} at the bottom to tell you the measurement.

- (e) Researchers assessed the effect of slope on microbial biomass carbon content of soil at four different sites on the Loess Plateau.

Microbial biomass carbon is a measure of the carbon contained within soil bacteria and fungi.

The slope had been planted with *Caragana korshinskii* 35 years ago.

Systematic sampling was used to locate four 100 m × 100 m sites (A, B, C, and D). At each location, random point sampling was used to collect soil samples at three depths: 0-10 cm, 11-30 cm, and 31-60 cm.

The diagram shows the location of sites A, B, C, and D.



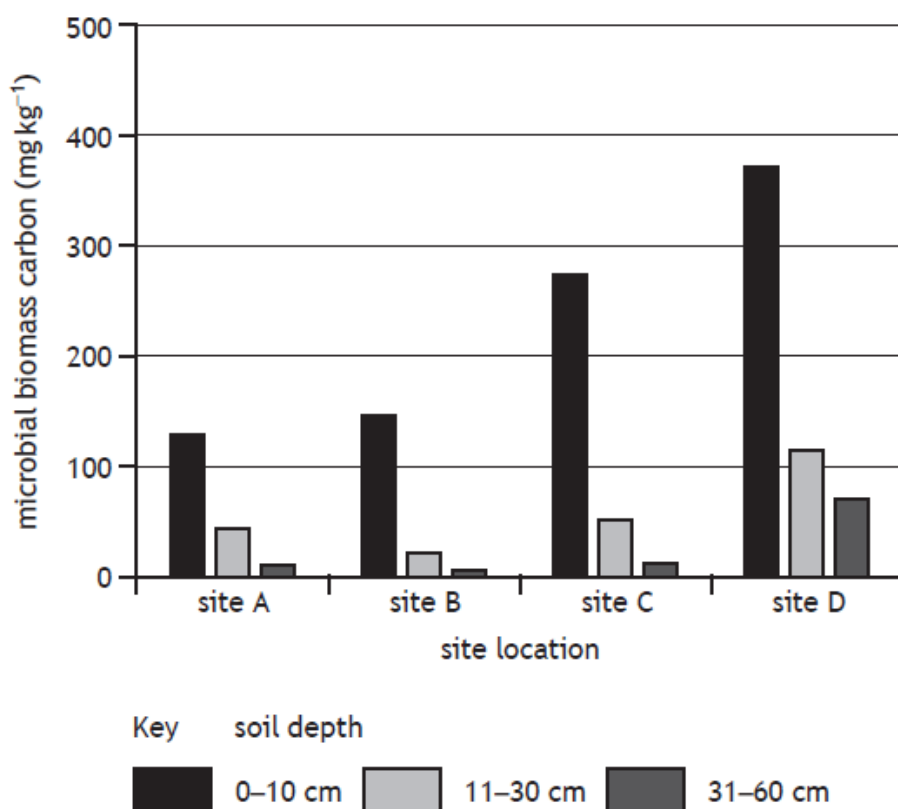
- (i) Suggest why the soil samples were collected at three depths at each sampling point and across each site.

1

Example

~~to ensure reliability and to~~
~~get a range of 2 results~~ ensure
~~allow them to get~~ a different range of
~~results~~ and to see whether there was
 was more microbial biomass carbon
 on the surface of the soil or deeper
 into the soil. To see if the depths
 had an effect ~~of~~ ^{on} the amount of
 microbial biomass carbon ~~found~~ present.

- (ii) The microbial biomass carbon content of each soil sample was determined. The results are shown in the graph.



Using the information in the diagram and graph, describe two trends shown.

2

Example 1

As the elevation decreased the
 1 microbial biomass carbon at
 0-10 cm increased.

2 As the elevation decreased the
 general trend of microbial biomass
 carbon increased as the elevation
 decreased.

Example 2

1. the soil depth of 0-10cm, increased from roughly 130 mg kg^{-1} of microbial biomass carbon to roughly just over 350 mg kg^{-1} going from site A to site D. Meaning at site D which was the furthest down the slope had the most microbial biomass carbon in a soil depth of 0-10cm.
 2. the soil depth of 31-60cm doesn't contain any more than 100 mg kg^{-1} of microbial biomass carbon from site A to site D.
- site A has the least amount of microbial biomass carbon than any other sites. site A was located on top of the slope.

- (f) The loss of sediments from the Loess Plateau into the nearby Yellow River has been reduced by introducing terraces for crop production.



Explain a benefit to local farmers of using terraces for crop production.

2

Example 1

It holds more nutrients
in the soil.

It allows for more
cultivation space leading
to a higher yield.

It makes it easier to
farm on.

Less soil erosion occurs.

It holds on to moisture
better.

Example 2

• if it rains the ~~plant~~ crops or seeds
won't get washed down ~~the~~ ^{the} slopes and
the terraces will gather the rain. meaning
~~that~~ they don't need to irrigate them
as often.

• easier to plant the crops as not on a slope,

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MARGIN**Questions 8 and 9 each contain a choice**

For each question, attempt either A or B. Write your answers to questions 8 and 9 on the following pages. You may use diagrams where appropriate.

8. A In some soil profiles, distinct horizons are evidence of the translocation of some materials.

Discuss the translocation of materials through a podzol soil under the following headings.

- (a) Leaching
- (b) Eluviation
- (c) Illuviation

10

OR

- B The global energy budget is the balance between incoming and outgoing solar radiation.

Discuss the impact of the following on the global energy budget.

- (a) Insolation
- (b) Albedo

10

9. A It is rarely possible to capture or count all the individuals in a population. Therefore the size and/or distribution of a population must be estimated.

Discuss biotic or biodiversity indices that could be used to estimate the population size and/or distribution of species.

10

OR

- B Biotic interactions can act as density-dependent controls, limiting the effects of high populations on ecosystem stability.

Discuss the effects of named biotic interactions on ecosystem stability.

10

8 A Example6. A. leaching

leaching in soil profiles is when minerals are transferred through soils by water as it pulls eroded minerals down through the gaps and pockets of air in the soil, metals/minerals in podzol soils tend to be things like iron ~~and~~ that give it a red colour.

Eluviation

Eluviation is the removing of materials from the ~~soil~~ soil, this process can happen through erosion of the soil profiles by weathering or from rivers or water stores. or from human interaction.

Illuviation

Illuviation is the transfer of materials into soil, this can happen through the break down of organic matter by detritivores, or the weathering of rock.

8 B Example 1

Insolation is the amount of the sun's energy that reaches the earth's surface. More insolation reaches the earth's equator, as this has the biggest surface area towards the sun and is closest to the sun. The sun's energy also has less atmosphere to travel through to get to the equator rather than the poles. The tri-cellular model (hadley, ferrel and polar cells) help redistribute the sun's energy from areas of surplus to areas of deficit. The albedo effect is the amount of the sun's insolation that is reflected back up into the atmosphere. It has a scale of 0-1. Lighter colours reflect more of the sun's energy and ~~therefore~~ ~~therefore~~ darker colours absorb energy more. The poles for example reflect more energy back into the atmosphere. Where as oceans and rainforests reflect less and hold more heat.

Example 2**a) insolation**

when the ~~heat~~^{light} from the sun, comes into the earth's atmosphere, some of it is reflected back out into space where as some is absorbed by the earth. Which increases the global energy budget, causing the earth to heat up more, which speeds up climate change. There is an ~~out~~ output of ~~light~~^{energy} when it is ~~if~~ reflected by the earth and an input of ~~heat~~^{energy} when it is absorbed by the earth. The heat gets trapped in the earth's atmosphere ~~causing~~ resulting in insolation.

b) albedo

white surfaces reflect the light more than black surfaces due to the black surface absorbing all the heat causing the atmosphere to be ~~at~~ warmer. White surfaces like snow and ice are important in reflecting light but due to ~~climate~~ climate change there is less snow and ice for the light to be reflected, and roads, and buildings ~~and~~ are increasing which increase the amount of heat being absorbed by the earth ^{which} ~~increasing~~ increases the earth's temperature.



9 A Example 1

Indices help us to understand how many species or what species are present. The benthic index is a measure of water quality. It is graded on 1-4 1 being non-polluted and 4 being polluted. It gives us an idea of what kind of species would be present in that particular area. Another method to work out the density of species is to use standard deviation. Another method to use for slow moving species is to place a ^{grid} quadrant over them. An example of this could be snails, however it is generally used for plant species. Using a random co-ordinate generator count up the number of species in that quadrant, then repeat the process and calculate the mean amount. A point method can also be used, this is where 10 rods are slowly suspended down and you count the amount

(continued overleaf)

of Species that come into contact with the roads before they reach the ground. A way of ~~estimating~~ calculating numbers of fast moving / mobile species is to count the number of faeces present in ~~an~~ given area, this gives an idea of the population of a species or whether they are simply present in an area or not. If a species is too small to count every individual then another way to measure the amount is to weigh them and use a biomass reading. e.g. a handful of woodlouse could be 2.5g. A paired statement key allows you to determine what species are present by giving you detail about an individual species. e.g.

Species 1 red wings

Species 2 bushy tail

Species 3 blue wings

Species 4 long whiskers

Example 2

Capture mark recapture is a method of measuring the population size of a moving species. A certain number of species are ~~that~~ caught and then marked with rings like tracking chips or tags, then the animals are released and left for a short period of time before more of the population is caught and an equation is used to estimate the size of the population judging on how many ~~the~~ animals had been previously caught and how many hadn't.

Trent biodiversity Index

The trent biodiversity Index is used to measure water qualities of certain areas, this can help to show how ~~bad the pollution~~ the pollution is affecting the river and how severe the pollution levels are. This can be measured by taking samples of Indicator Species kick sampling can be used to do this where the river bed is disturbed upstream from a net and the species caught are identified using paired statement keys. Species like stone fly nymphs can show that the water is fairly clean as this species can't tolerate polluted water.

Where as blood worms can help to show that the water is more polluted as this species can tolerate polluted water. the body of water can be given a score 0 being the most polluted.

Simpsons biodiversity Index

9 B Example

- B. density-dependent factors are factors that effects certain densities of populations.
- diseases effects populations size due to it ~~ke~~ killing of the weakest individuals, so only the fittest survives. Diseases help to stop the population from getting to big and only allow the fittest ~~to~~ to reproduce and pass on their genes. Which helps stabilise the ecosystem from overpopulation of certain ~~population~~ organisms.
 - predators helps ~~to~~ prevent populations from increasing by killing off weak individuals and helping to control the population. Which stabilise, the ecosystem by preventing a population to from increasing to much that it starts to effect other animals/plants, ~~and~~ water supplies and the amount of habitat available.
 - if prey numbers decrease so does the number of predators so prevents overpopulation so only the fittest individuals will be able to catch and eat and survive. So if a prey population decreases then it has an knock on effect on other org organisms that depend on that population so it is unstabilise the ecosystem.
 - ~~if the water supply decreases so does the population~~
 - ^{that} the effect ~~on~~ these factors have on the population helps prevent overpopulation which stabilises the ecosystem and other organisms that depend on that population for survival.