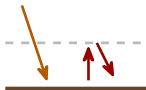


Global Change

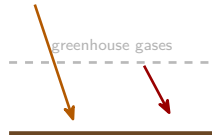
AP Environmental Science ■ Unit 9

AP Environmental Science



What we will cover

- 1 Ozone depletion
- 2 The greenhouse effect
- 3 Climate change
- 4 Ocean warming and acid
- 5 Invasive and endangered species
- 6 HIPPCO threats

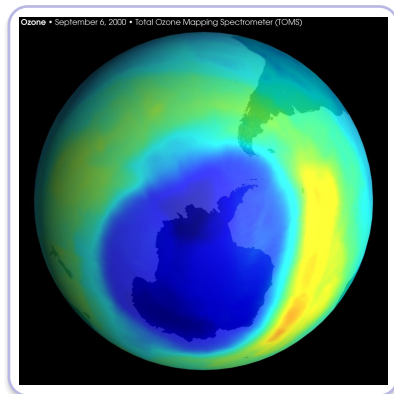




Ozone depletion and the Montreal Protocol

The **ozone layer** blocks UV. **CFCs** release chlorine that destroys it (catalyst).

The 1987 **Montreal Protocol** phased out CFCs worldwide and is a rare environmental success – the layer is slowly recovering. The substitutes still carry a climate cost, which is the follow-up the question asks for.



Ozone hole: CFC chlorine catalysis

The ozone layer, and what took it apart

ozone layer

high in the stratosphere; absorbs harmful **ultraviolet** radiation before it reaches the ground

CFCs

chlorofluorocarbons – once used in coolants and sprays; stable enough to drift up intact

the mechanism

UV splits off a chlorine atom, which destroys ozone **catalytically** – one atom, thousands of molecules

the consequence

more UV at the surface: skin cancer, cataracts, damage to crops and plankton

The **Montreal Protocol** phased CFCs out and the layer is recovering – the one clear success story in the whole course.



The greenhouse effect

A *natural* warming: sunlight warms the ground, which radiates **infrared radiation** ; **greenhouse gases** trap some heat.

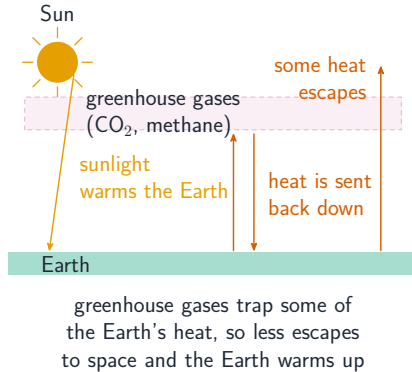
- CO₂, **methane** , **water vapor**

Keeps Earth **habitable** : +15°C, not -18°C. The problem is making it **too** strong.



Endangered coral

Greenhouse gases absorb the heat the Earth



Greenhouse gases absorb the heat the Earth gives off and send some back



Climate change

Human activities enhance the greenhouse effect. Weather is a day; climate change is decades.

- rising average temperature, melting ice, rising **sea level**
- fiercer extremes, and species ranges shifting polewards

Feedback: melting ice bares dark water that absorbs more heat.



Glacier loss: ice-albedo feedback



Ocean warming and acidification

The ocean absorbs $>90\%$ of the extra heat and much of the CO_2 .

- heat $\Rightarrow$ coral bleaching + thermal expansion
- $\text{CO}_2 \Rightarrow$ carbonic acid, lower pH

Ocean acidification dissolves shells of calcifying organisms.



Coral bleaching from ocean heat stress

Ocean acidification

the cause

the ocean absorbs about a **quarter** of our CO₂, which forms carbonic acid

the effect

pH falls – **ocean acidification**

who it hits

corals, shellfish and plankton, which build shells and skeletons from **calcium carbonate**

and warming

warmer water bleaches coral and expands, so **sea levels** rise even before ice melt is counted

Acidification and warming come from the **same** CO₂ and hit the same organisms twice over.



Invasive and endangered species

An **invasive species** is a non-native that spreads and outcompetes natives – often via trade.

Endangered species lose habitat, face pollution, and overharvesting. Conservation can reverse it.



Invasive kudzu: spreads and outcompetes natives



HIPPCO – threats to biodiversity

The six human threats, worst first is **H**abitat loss:

Habitat destruction

Invasive species

Pollution

Population growth

Climate change

Overexploitation

No single threat is the whole story – their **combination** drives today's rapid species loss.

Increases in the Greenhouse Gases



Each gas has its own source: CO_2 from burning fossil fuels and deforestation, **methane** from livestock, landfills and rice paddies, nitrous oxide from fertiliser. To compare them fairly use **global warming potential** (GWP) – the heat one unit traps relative to CO_2 over a set time.

Human Impacts on Biodiversity

two ways to conserve a species

in-situ (in the wild)
national parks,
marine reserves

ex-situ (away
from the wild)
zoos, botanic gardens,
seed banks,
frozen zoos

In-situ and ex-situ conservation protect species

Habitat fragmentation is worse than losing the same area

what happens

roads, pipelines and development break one large habitat into small isolated patches

populations cut off

small patches cannot exchange individuals, so **genetic diversity** falls

more edge

a patch is nearly all boundary – exposed to predators, invasive species and a drier microclimate

the wider picture

habitat loss, **global climate change**, pollution, **invasive species** and overexploitation together drive what some call a **sixth mass extinction**

Ten one-hectare patches are not one ten-hectare habitat. Say *why* – isolation and edge – and the mark is yours.

Exam tips

- Keep **ozone depletion** (CFCs let in more UV) and **climate change** (greenhouse gases trap more heat) as **two different problems**.
- Explain the natural greenhouse effect and the **enhanced** version from extra CO₂ and methane.
- Connect ocean warming (coral bleaching) and **ocean acidification** (CO₂ → carbonic acid → weaker shells).
- An **invasive species** is dangerous because it has no natural predators in its new home.
- Summarise threats to biodiversity with **HIPPO** (Habitat loss, Invasive species, Pollution, Population, Overharvesting).



Worked example – the greenhouse effect

Explain how CO₂ warms Earth, and why melting Arctic ice makes it worse.

- Short-wave sunlight warms the surface, which re-radiates **long-wave infrared**.
- CO₂ **absorbs and re-emits** that infrared, sending part back down $\Rightarrow$ warming.
- Ice has **high albedo** (≈ 0.9); dark ocean has **low albedo** (≈ 0.06).
- Melting exposes ocean $\Rightarrow$ more absorbed $\Rightarrow$ more melting: **positive feedback**.

Greenhouse gases are transparent to **incoming** short-wave and opaque to **outgoing** long-wave – say both. **Positive feedback amplifies**; negative feedback stabilises.

Worked example – how much has CO₂ risen?

Atmospheric CO₂ rose from about 280 ppm before industrialisation to about 420 ppm today. What is the percentage increase?

$$\begin{aligned} & \blacksquare \frac{420 - 280}{280} \times 100\% \\ & \blacksquare = \frac{140}{280} \times 100\% = 50\% \end{aligned}$$

A 50% rise in the main long-lived greenhouse gas is the core driver of the enhanced greenhouse effect and modern warming.

Unit 9 – key takeaways

1

Ozone

CFC chlorine catalyst; Montreal Protocol is healing it

2

Greenhouse

natural + habitable; humans enhance it → warming

3

Oceans

absorb heat + CO₂: bleaching, acidification, higher seas

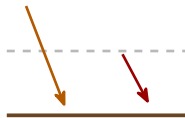
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Biodiversity

invasive + endangered; the six HIPPCO threats

Check yourself

- 1 Why does one chlorine atom destroy so much ozone?
- 2 What treaty phased out CFCs?
- 3 What turns coral white in warm water?
- 4 What does the “H” in HIPPCO stand for?



Answers 1. it acts as a catalyst, freed to repeat stress (bleaching) 2. the Montreal Protocol 3. heat stress (bleaching) 4. Habitat destruction