

5.11 Ecological Footprints

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 9 marks

KEY WORDS ecological footprint 生态足迹

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **ecological footprints**.

You must be able to:

- define an **ecological footprint** 生态足迹
- explain what raises or lowers it
- compare footprints between countries

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a question type used later — follow the steps and you can do the Practice and Exam-style questions yourself.

■ The ecological footprint

An **ecological footprint** is the area of land and water needed to supply a person's (or population's) resources and absorb their waste.

■ What raises it

A larger footprint comes from **high consumption**: more meat, energy, driving, and goods. Wealthy, developed countries tend to have **large** footprints per person.

■ What lowers it

Using less energy, eating lower on the food chain, recycling, and using renewable energy **lower** the footprint.

■ Overshoot

If humanity's total footprint exceeds Earth's **biocapacity** (what it can regenerate), we are in **overshoot** — using resources faster than they renew.

2 Practice

Now apply the methods above.

2.1 Define an ecological footprint. [1]

2.2 State one factor that increases a person's footprint. [1]

2.3 State one way to lower your footprint. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A person with a large ecological footprint most likely has [1]

A	B
C	D

A low resource consumption

B high resource consumption

C no impact

D a plant-based diet only

3.2 Two countries: one wealthy and high-consuming, one lower-income.

(a) Which likely has the larger per-person footprint? [1]

(b) Explain why. [2]

3.3 Explain what it means for humanity to be in ecological “overshoot”. [2]