

8.11 Sewage Treatment

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 11 marks

KEY WORDS primary 一级 • tertiary 三级 • secondary 二级 • pathogens 病原体
• sewage treatment 污水处理

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **sewage treatment**.

You must be able to:

- describe **primary** 一级, **secondary** 二级, and **tertiary** 三级 treatment
- state what each stage removes
- explain why treatment protects water

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 stages

- **Primary** — **physical** removal: screening and settling out solids (sludge).
- **Secondary** — **biological**: bacteria break down dissolved organic matter (reducing oxygen demand).
- **Tertiary** — **advanced**: removes remaining nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus) and disinfects (often with chlorine or UV).

■ Why treat sewage

Untreated sewage adds **nutrients** (eutrophication), **pathogens** (disease), and **oxygen-demanding** organic matter to water. Treatment removes these before release.

■ A worked order

Sewage first settles (primary), then bacteria digest the organics (secondary), then nutrients are removed and the water is disinfected (tertiary) before discharge.

■ Sludge

The settled **sludge** is treated separately (digested), and can be used as fertilizer or disposed of.

2 Practice

Now apply the methods above.

2.1 What does primary treatment remove? [1]

2.2 What does secondary treatment use to break down organic matter? [1]

2.3 What does tertiary treatment remove? [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Bacteria are used to break down dissolved organic matter in [1]

A	B
C	D

- A primary treatment
- B secondary treatment
- C tertiary treatment
- D no treatment

3.2 A treatment plant processes sewage before releasing water to a river.

(a) Name the three treatment stages in order. [3]

(b) Explain why releasing untreated sewage would harm the river. [2]

3.3 Explain why tertiary treatment is important for preventing eutrophication. [2]