

# 5.10 Consequences of Agricultural Practices

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: 10 marks

## Objective

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Build the skills to answer exam questions on the **environmental consequences of agriculture** 农业的环境影响.

You must be able to:

- explain how farming causes **soil degradation** 土壤退化 and erosion
- explain how fertilizers cause water **pollution** 污染
- link agriculture to **deforestation** 森林砍伐 and land-cover change
- state one way to farm more sustainably

## 1 Worked examples

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Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

### ■ Soil and water impacts

Intensive farming can strip nutrients and cause **soil degradation** and erosion. Excess fertilizer washes into rivers, causing **pollution** and algal blooms.

### ■ Land-cover change

Clearing land for farms drives **deforestation** and loss of habitat, changing land cover and releasing carbon.

### ■ Sustainable responses

Crop rotation, terracing, cover crops, and reduced chemical use protect soil and water while keeping land productive.

## 2 Practice

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2.1 Explain how excess fertilizer harms rivers.

[2]

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**2.2** State how expanding farmland causes deforestation. [2]

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**2.3** A region's overworked fields are losing topsoil.

(a) Name this environmental consequence. [1]

(b) State one practice that would reduce it. [1]

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### 3 Exam-style questions

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**3.1** Fertilizer runoff causing algal blooms in a lake is an example of [1]

- **A** soil erosion
- **B** water pollution
- **C** deforestation
- **D** desertification only

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**3.2** Clearing rainforest for cattle pasture is a form of [1]

- **A** reforestation
- **B** deforestation and land-cover change
- **C** crop rotation
- **D** fair trade

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**3.3** A farm switches to crop rotation and cover crops.

(a) State one environmental benefit. [1]

(b) Explain why this is more sustainable. [1]

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### 4 Go further

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- work through the **5.10 Consequences of Agricultural Practices** lesson on the **Learn** page;

- read the **Agriculture and Rural Land-Use** section of the AP Human Geography handout on the **Know** page.

## Solutions

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**2.1** fertilizer washes into waterways; it causes algal blooms/pollution that harm aquatic life.

**2.2** forests are cleared to create fields/pasture; this destroys habitat and changes land cover.

**2.3** (a) soil degradation/erosion. (b) crop rotation, terracing, cover crops, or reduced tillage.

**3.1 B.** nutrient runoff into water = water pollution.

**3.2 B.** removing forest for farming = deforestation/land-cover change.

**3.3** (a) less soil erosion / restored soil nutrients / less chemical need. (b) it keeps the land productive long-term without degrading it.