AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY • EXERCISE SHEET

5.5 The Green Revolution

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 10 marks**

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on the **Green Revolution** 绿色革命.

You must be able to:

- describe the Green Revolution's methods (**high-yield seeds** 高产种子, fertilizers, irrigation)
- state its main benefit
- state two drawbacks
- evaluate its uneven global impact

1 Worked examples

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

Green Revolution methods

The **Green Revolution** (mid-20th century) introduced **high-yield seed varieties**, chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and irrigation to boost food production.

Benefits

It hugely increased yields of staples like wheat and rice, helping avoid famine and feed growing populations, especially in Asia and Latin America.

Drawbacks

It needs costly inputs (poor farmers can be left out), can damage soil and water, reduces crop diversity, and had little impact in some regions like much of Africa.

2 Practice

2.1 State two methods of the Green Revolution. [2]

2.2 State one benefit and one drawback of the Green Revolution. [2]

2.3 A poor farmer cannot afford the seeds and fertilizer the Green Revolution requires.

(a) State the drawback this illustrates. [1]

(b) Explain why yields still rose overall. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The Green Revolution mainly increased the yields of [1]

- **A** luxury export crops
- **B** staple grains like wheat and rice
- **C** livestock only
- **D** cash flowers

3.2 A common environmental criticism of the Green Revolution is [1]

- **A** it used no water
- **B** it damaged soil and water through chemicals
- **C** it lowered all yields
- **D** it ended irrigation

3.3 The Green Revolution transformed farming in Asia but barely reached parts of Africa.

(a) State one reason for this uneven impact. [1]

(b) Explain one lasting benefit where it did take hold. [1]

4 Go further

- work through the **5.5 The Green Revolution** lesson on the **Learn** page;

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

Solutions

2.1 any two of: high-yield seeds, chemical fertilizers, pesticides, irrigation.

2.2 benefit: much higher yields / avoided famine; drawback: costly inputs, environmental harm, or lost crop diversity.

2.3 (a) high input costs exclude poor farmers / widen inequality. (b) larger/richer farms adopted it and raised total output.

3.1 B. it boosted staple grains (wheat, rice).

3.2 B. heavy chemical/irrigation use can degrade soil and water.

3.3 (a) lack of infrastructure, credit, water, or suitable seeds in some regions. (b) far higher food output helped feed growing populations and cut famine.