

Exercise walk-through

9.3

Technological Advances: Debates About the Environment After 1900

AP World History: Modern

Environmental changes have distinct causes

Land and water

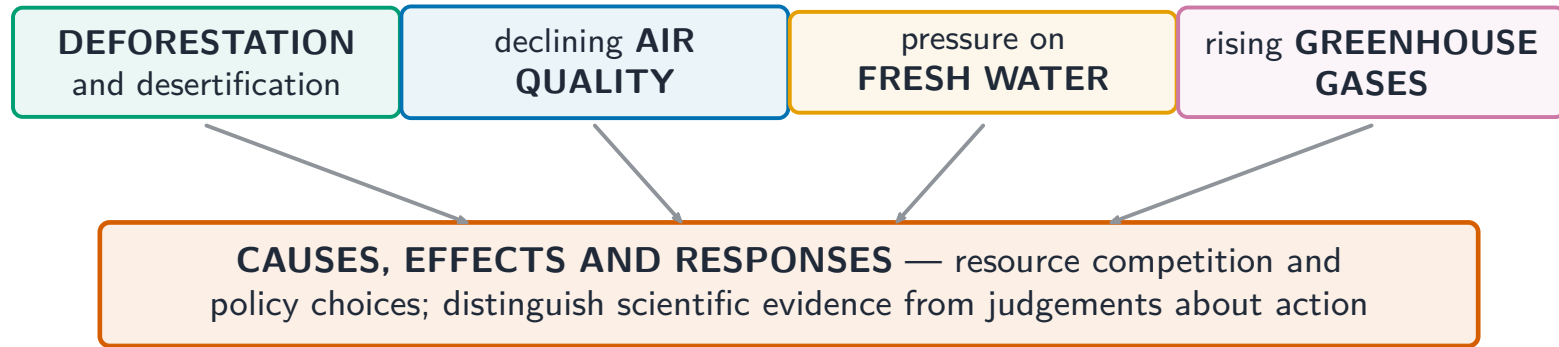
Clearing woodland removes forest cover. Irrigation can increase demand for **fresh water** and competition over a supply.

Air and climate

Petroleum combustion adds **greenhouse gases** and can contribute to air pollution. This is a different mechanism from removing forest or using water.

Explain the activity, the environmental change and the consequence.

Environmental change and responses



Historical policy disputes do not make all scientific causal claims equally supported.

Scientific evidence and policy choices

An assessed causal conclusion

The IPCC's 2023 assessment attributes global warming to human activities, principally greenhouse-gas emissions.

A policy judgement

How quickly should emissions fall, and how should states share the cost? Evaluate the reasons and evidence for the proposed response.

Source: IPCC 2023 Summary for Policymakers, A.1. The historical task may ask about causes, effects or disputed responses.

Your turn: classify the claim

Two different claims

A: Burning petroleum adds greenhouse gases.

B: Richer states should pay a larger share of the response.

Which is a causal claim and which is a policy judgement? Explain the support each needs.

Check: distinguish the kinds of support

- 1 **Claim A.** A causal mechanism needs scientific evidence about combustion and emissions.
- 2 **Claim B.** A distributional judgement needs an argument about responsibility, capacity and fairness, informed by evidence.
- 3 **Connection.** Scientific findings inform a response; they do not alone settle every choice about how its costs are shared.

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 Name the four environmental effects of human activity.

[2]

2.2 State what intensified and why.

[2]

Exercises 2.1·2.2

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2.1

- deforestation; desertification; a decline in air quality; increased consumption of fresh water
-

2.2 State what intensified and why. [2]

2.2

- competition over these and other resources, which became more intense than ever before because of scarcity

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 The CED reports a debate.

(a) State what the debates were about.

[2]

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[2]

(a)

- the nature and causes of climate change

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 The CED reports a debate.

(b) State why a debate is a historical subject.

[1]

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 The CED reports a debate.

(b) State why a debate is a historical subject.

[1]

(b)

- what was disputed, by whom and on what grounds is itself a historical question

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 Increased consumption concerned the world's supply of

[1]

☐

A fresh water

B coal

C iron

D timber only

3.2 Competition over resources became

[1]

☐

A less intense

B more intense than ever before

C unchanged

D impossible

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3.1 A

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3.2 B

- the CED's own phrase

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 Two groups disagree publicly about an environmental question.

(a) State what a historian records.

[1]

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[1]

(a)

- who argued what, when and with what effect

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 Two groups disagree publicly about an environmental question.

(b) Explain the difference from a scientific account.

[2]

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[2]

(b)

- a scientific account asks which claim is true, while the historical account asks how the argument proceeded and what it changed