

# 2.6 Environmental Consequences of Connectivity

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ **Total: 12 marks**

**KEY WORDS** travellers 旅行者 • diffusion of crops and pathogens 作物与病原体的传播  
• environmental consequences 环境影响 • diffusion 传播

## Objective

Build the skills to explain **environmental consequences** 环境影响 of exchange.

You must be able to:

- state what the CED says diffused along trade routes
- explain why crops and pathogens appear in one sentence
- name the disease the CED specifies
- explain why this is the unit’s least intended consequence

## 1 Worked examples

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

■ **What diffused**

There was **continued diffusion of crops and pathogens**, with epidemic diseases, including the bubonic plague, along trade routes.

■ **One sentence, two effects**

A route that carries a crop carries a pathogen. The CED puts them together because they travel by the same mechanism, with opposite consequences for the population.

■ **The disease**

The bubonic plague is the CED’s named example — a consequence of connection that no participant in the network wanted or foresaw.

■ **Unintended**

Every other consequence in unit 2 was sought by someone: merchants wanted profit, empires wanted revenue, travellers wanted knowledge. This one was sought by nobody, which is why it belongs in a unit about networks rather than about intentions.

## 2 Practice

**2.1** State what the CED says diffused along trade routes. [2]

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**2.2** Explain why crops and pathogens appear together. [2]

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**2.3** This consequence was intended by nobody.

(a) State what everyone else in unit 2 sought. [2]

(b) State why this one still belongs in the unit. [1]

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## 3 Exam-style questions

**3.1** The CED’s named epidemic disease is [1]

- **A** smallpox
- **B** the bubonic plague
- **C** malaria
- **D** cholera

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**3.2** Crops and pathogens travelled by [1]

- **A** different mechanisms
- **B** the same mechanism
- **C** no mechanism
- **D** deliberate transport only

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**3.3** A network built to move goods also moves a disease.

(a) State what this shows about networks.

[1]

(b) Explain why the consequence cannot be designed out.

[2]

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## Solutions

**2.1** crops and pathogens, with epidemic diseases including the bubonic plague.

**2.2** a route carrying a crop carries a pathogen; they travel by the same mechanism with opposite consequences.

**2.3** (a) merchants sought profit; empires sought revenue; travellers sought knowledge.  
(b) the unit is about what networks do, not what participants intend.

**3.1 B.** the CED names it.

**3.2 B.** the same routes and vessels.

**3.3** (a) that their effects exceed their purpose. (b) the carriage of goods and of pathogens use the same ships, roads and people, so one cannot be permitted and the other refused.