

9.3 Technological Advances: Debates About the Environment After 1900

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS environmental change 环境变化 • fresh water 淡水
• decline in air quality 空气质量下降 • deforestation 森林砍伐 • desertification 荒漠化

Objective

Build the skills to explain **environmental change** 环境变化.

You must be able to:

- name the four environmental effects of human activity
- state what intensified as a result
- state the CED’s careful wording about climate change
- explain why the CED describes a debate

1 Worked examples

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

■ Four effects

Human activity contributed to **deforestation, desertification, a decline in air quality, and increased consumption of the world’s supply of fresh water.**

■ Intensified competition

Humans competed over these and other resources more intensely than ever before. Environmental change becomes political through scarcity.

■ Climate change

The release of greenhouse gases and pollutants into the atmosphere contributed to debates about the nature and causes of climate change. The CED reports the debate, and reproducing that wording is what accuracy requires here.

■ Why a debate

The CED’s subject in this clause is the public argument — what was disputed, by whom and on what grounds — which is a historical question distinct from the scientific one.

2 Practice

2.1 Name the four environmental effects of human activity. [2]

2.2 State what intensified and why. [2]

2.3 The CED reports a debate.

(a) State what the debates were about. [2]

(b) State why a debate is a historical subject. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

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

3.3 Two groups disagree publicly about an environmental question.

(a) State what a historian records.

[1]

(b) Explain the difference from a scientific account.

[2]

Solutions

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

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

2.3 (a) the nature and causes of climate change. (b) what was disputed, by whom and on what grounds is itself a historical question.

3.1 A. fresh water.

3.2 B. the CED's own phrase.

3.3 (a) who argued what, when and with what effect. (b) a scientific account asks which claim is true, while the historical account asks how the argument proceeded and what it changed.