

2.1 Analyse a global issue through linked evidence and limits

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 24 marks

KEY WORDS global issue 全球性议题 • shared resource 共有资源 • externality 外部性

Objective

Analyse a global issue through linked evidence and limits. This is original GAC027/GAC028-aligned practice, not an official assessment. All case participants and planning records are fictional; the explicitly cited historical context is factual. The case data are invented for learning; they are not findings about a real school, country or population. Use the supplied evidence and do not invent missing observations.

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

■ **Key knowledge: a shared issue connects places without making their situations identical**

A **global issue** 全球性议题 matters across many societies or connects places through causes, effects and responses. Local circumstances can still differ. A **shared resource** 共有资源 is used by more than one group. An **externality** 外部性 occurs when an action affects others and its full cost or benefit is not reflected in that action. Identify the connection in the actual case; not every global issue has the same cause or a shared physical resource.

■ **Source A: text or task brief**

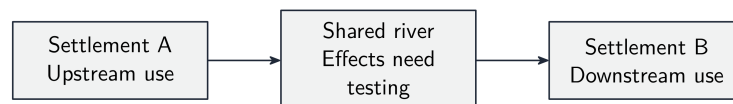
Historical context, paraphrased from UN sources: the first United Nations Water Conference was held in Mar del Plata in 1977. In 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals included a dedicated water and sanitation goal, SDG 6. These milestones show sustained international attention; adopting a goal does not prove that it has been achieved. Sources checked 2 October 2026: UN water and sanitation topic and UN history of water cooperation.

For the following original exercise, settlements A and B are fictional and lie beside the same river. A is upstream; B is downstream. A uses the river for irrigation. B draws water for household use. A proposed discharge permit could affect B, but no water-quality tests or discharge measurements are supplied. No finding of contamination has been made.

■ Source B: response or review record

Fictional planning record: A wants reliable irrigation and affordable treatment. B wants reliable household supply and protection of water quality. Both propose sharing monitoring results. Who will pay for monitoring is undecided; neither settlement has approved the permit. A commentator writes: “The 2015 goal solved water access everywhere. Since B is downstream, A has already contaminated its water. B alone should collect data, because only B benefits.”

■ Worked example: describe a possible effect without inventing a measured result



Known: A and B use the same river; the permit is proposed and tests are absent. Why discuss a possible externality? An upstream discharge could impose a downstream water-quality cost. This is a risk requiring measurement, not evidence that contamination has occurred. Shared monitoring can inform both irrigation management and household protection; payment and approval remain open.

2 Practice

2.1 Name the two historical milestones and their years given in Source A. [2]

2.2 Identify the shared resource and ONE reason this case connects the settlements. [2]

2.3 Explain a possible externality and state why contamination cannot yet be claimed. [3]

2.4 Identify THREE unsupported claims in the commentator's account. [3]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Evaluate shared monitoring as a response, including interests, evidence and two outstanding decisions. [6]

[8]

Solutions

2.1

: first UN Water Conference, 1977.: SDGs with dedicated SDG 6 for water and sanitation, 2015.

2.2

: the river.: upstream use or discharge may affect downstream supply or quality; both rely on it.

2.3

: a proposed upstream discharge might impose a downstream water-quality cost.: that cost may fall on B rather than only A.: no water-quality or discharge measurements are supplied; the permit is not approved.

2.4

each: the goal proves universal achievement; downstream location proves actual contamination; only B benefits from monitoring. Accept the associated precise correction for each.

3.1

each: A needs irrigation; B needs household supply/quality; consistent shared testing informs both; tests are needed before claiming contamination or success; monitoring funding is undecided; permit approval is outstanding. Accept a relevant consented sampling/reporting arrangement instead of repeating a stated interest.

3.2

Local analytic rubric, 8 ×: identify shared river; explain possible downstream effect; avoid claiming contamination; distinguish goal from achievement; recognise both interests; propose shared measurement; preserve funding uncertainty; preserve permission uncertainty; coherent truthful 80–110 word response. Example: “The two fictional settlements depend on the same river for different purposes. An upstream discharge could affect downstream household water, so its possible costs deserve investigation. However, the supplied record contains no tests and does not establish contamination. International milestones in 1977 and 2015 show attention to water issues, not proof that every access problem is solved. Shared monitoring could inform both irrigation management and household protection. The settlements should agree on sampling, reporting and who pays before acting. They also need to decide on the proposed permit; the planning discussion is not an approval.”