Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer **all** questions.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided — there may be more space than you need.

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 53.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets — **use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question**.
- Questions labelled with an **asterisk** (*) are ones where the quality of your written communication will be assessed — **you should take particular care on these questions with your spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as the clarity of expression**.
- The marks available for spelling, punctuation and grammar are clearly indicated.

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Try to answer every question.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.
Answer ALL questions.

Some questions must be answered with a cross in a box ☑. If you change your mind about an answer, put a line through the box ✗ and then mark your new answer with a cross ☑.

1 Study Section 1 (pages 2 and 3) in the Resource Booklet and answer the following questions.

(a) (i) Which one of the following is the best definition of biodiversity?

☐ A The natural result of a changing environment.
☐ B The number and variety of plants and animals.
☐ C The total number of animals on Earth.
☐ D The differences between animals and plants.

(ii) Which one of the following is the best definition of an ‘extinction event’?

☐ A When a species of animal dies out.
☐ B When the dinosaurs died out.
☐ C When species adapt to environmental changes.
☐ D When extinction rates are very high.

(iii) Study Figure 1a in the Resource Booklet.

Which one of the following groups has the highest percentage of critically endangered species?

☐ A birds
☐ B plants
☐ C fish
☐ D mammals
(iv) Study Figure 1b in the Resource Booklet.

Which one of the following is the best definition of a biodiversity ‘hotspot’?

☐ A  A tropical area where plants and animals are found.
☐ B  An area that is under threat because of global warming.
☐ C  An area with a very large number of plant and animal species.
☐ D  An area that is protected from further development.

(v) Which one of the following is the best description of the distribution of biodiversity ‘hotspots’?

☐ A  Mostly in the developing world.
☐ B  Mostly in the developed world.
☐ C  Mostly in Asia.
☐ D  Mostly in Africa.

(b) (i) Outline one piece of evidence that we might be living during a sixth ‘extinction event’.

(ii) Suggest one reason why some species might be more at risk than others.

(Total for Question 1 = 9 marks)
2 Study Section 2 (pages 4, 5 and 6) in the Resource Booklet and answer the following questions.

(a) Study Figure 2a in the Resource Booklet.

Which one of the following describes the causes of animal extinctions since 1600?

- A Species Introduction and Hunting and Fishing cause 90%.
- B Species Introduction and Habitat Destruction cause 90%.
- C Species Introduction and Hunting and Fishing cause 75%.
- D Species Introduction and Habitat Destruction cause 75%.

(b) (i) Study Figure 2b in the Resource Booklet.

Which one of the following describes the differences in projected global populations for 2060?

- A The high projection is 3.5 billion higher than the low projection.
- B The high projection is 2.5 billion higher than the low projection.
- C The high projection is 1.5 billion higher than the low projection.
- D The high projection is 0.5 billion higher than the low projection.

(ii) Outline one reason why there is doubt about the rate of future global population growth.
(c) (i) Study Figure 2c in the Resource Booklet.

Which continent has the highest projected population growth rate between 2015 and 2060?

☐ A   South America

☐ B   Africa

☐ C   Europe

☐ D   North America

(ii) Outline one threat to animal and plant species caused by rapid population growth.

..........................................................................................................................
..........................................................................................................................
..........................................................................................................................
..........................................................................................................................

(iii) Outline one reason why TNCs are buying more land in the developing world.

..........................................................................................................................
..........................................................................................................................
..........................................................................................................................
..........................................................................................................................
(iv) Outline **two** reasons why habitat destruction is more serious in some areas than others.

1. .......................................................................................................................... 
   ..........................................................................................................................
   ..........................................................................................................................
   ..........................................................................................................................

2. .......................................................................................................................... 
   ..........................................................................................................................
   ..........................................................................................................................
   ..........................................................................................................................

(d) Study Figure 2d in the Resource Booklet.

(i) Which **one** of the following best describes the predicted growth of GDP?

   [ ] A  The world economy will grow faster than it did in the past.
   [ ] B  Developed countries will grow faster than the world economy.
   [ ] C  Developing countries will grow faster than they did in the past.
   [ ] D  Developing countries will grow faster than developed countries.

(ii) Outline **one** way in which economic growth increases the consumption of resources.
(e) Study Figure 2e in the Resource Booklet.

(i) Which one of the following best describes the pattern of global consumption in 2015?

☐ A The poorest 20% consume more than the richest 20%.

☐ B The richest 20% consume less than the middle 60%.

☐ C The richest 20% consume much more than the other 80%.

☐ D The middle 60% consume more than the richest 20%.

(ii) Identify the two continents where most of the world’s richest 20% live.

1 ..........................................................................................................................

2 ..........................................................................................................................

(iii) Outline one social impact of the present distribution of wealth and consumption.

..........................................................................................................................

..........................................................................................................................

..........................................................................................................................

..........................................................................................................................

(Total for Question 2 = 21 marks)
Study Section 3 (page 7) in the Resource Booklet and answer the following questions.

(a) Define the term **carrying capacity**.

.......................................................................................................................... ... ..........................................................................................................................
.......................................................................................................................... ... ..........................................................................................................................
.......................................................................................................................... ... ..........................................................................................................................
.......................................................................................................................... ... ..........................................................................................................................

(b) Study Figures 3a and 3b. Outline the **two** different theories of the relationship between population growth and resources.

1 ..........................................................................................................................
.......................................................................................................................... ... ..........................................................................................................................
.......................................................................................................................... ... ..........................................................................................................................
.......................................................................................................................... ... ..........................................................................................................................

2 ..........................................................................................................................
.......................................................................................................................... ... ..........................................................................................................................
.......................................................................................................................... ... ..........................................................................................................................
.......................................................................................................................... ... ..........................................................................................................................

(Total for Question 3 = 6 marks)
4 Study Section 4 (page 8) in the Resource Booklet and answer the following questions.

(a) Study Figure 4.

Which one of the following best describes the responses to the survey?

- A Most people would protect the environment even if it costs jobs and would pay higher prices for food and other goods.
- B Most people would not protect the environment even if it costs jobs and would not pay higher prices for food and other goods.
- C Most people would protect the environment even if it costs jobs but would not pay higher prices for food and other goods.
- D Most people would not protect the environment because it costs jobs but would pay higher prices for food and other goods.

(b) Explain why attitudes to protecting the environment vary.

(Total for Question 4 = 5 marks)
Study the three options concerning the declining biodiversity of the planet.

Option 1: Biodiversity decline is mainly caused by population growth. Governments must tackle this immediately and slow down population growth, to gain some time.

Option 2: Biodiversity decline is mainly caused by economic growth. Governments must tackle this immediately and slow down economic growth, to gain some time.

Option 3: Biodiversity decline can be prevented by creating new technologies. Governments must spend much more money researching solutions despite the cost to us all.

Select one option.

Explain the advantages of this option.

Use information from the Resource Booklet and your own knowledge from Units 1 and 2 to support your answer.

(9)

Chosen option
..........................................................
..........................................................
..........................................................
..........................................................
..........................................................
..........................................................
..........................................................
..........................................................
..........................................................
..........................................................
Instructions

- Read the information on the problem on page 2 first.
- You are advised not to write for the first 30 minutes, read and make pencil notes only during this time.
- When reading, make links with other topics you have studied in Unit 1 (e.g., Water World and Changing Climate) and Unit 2 (e.g., Population Dynamics and Development Dilemmas).
INTRODUCTION TO THE PROBLEM

The problem

The rapid extinction of plant and animal species poses a threat to the human race.

How can we deal with this?

• Some people believe that we must control population growth.
• Others think we need to control economic growth and reduce inequalities.
• Another view is that technology will solve the problem.

Section 1 – The health of global ecosystems

• There are about 1.5 million species of plants and animals on Earth.
• The number and variety of these plants and animals, from bacteria to more complex organisms, is known as biodiversity.
• Extinction of a species is usually a natural result of evolution as plants and animals change and adapt to changing environments.
• Current rates of extinction are at least 100 times faster than the natural rate.
• In the past, long before humans evolved, there were five major periods when extinction rates were very high, known as ‘extinction events’.
• Some scientists regard the present period of Earth history as a sixth ‘extinction event’, thought to be caused by human activity.
• The rate of species loss is as high as 30,000 a year, faster than anything before in the history of the planet (see Figure 1a).
• Many of these plants and animals are vital for the sustainability of the global ecosystems on which we depend.

![Figure 1a](image)

The percentage (%) of plant and animal species that are endangered

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Endangered</th>
<th>Critically endangered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plants</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invertebrates</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amphibians</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reptiles</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mammals</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birds</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• A decline in biodiversity threatens human survival because of our dependence on a complex food web.

• An example of this is the decline in the number of bees, which pollinate important food crops.

• Biodiversity varies from place to place and environmental groups have identified 34 parts of the world that are especially important ‘hotspots’ (see Figure 1b).

• These areas cover only 2.3% of the Earth’s land surface but contain about 50% of all plant species and over 40% of all animal species.

Figure 1b
Global ‘hotspots’ of biodiversity
Section 2 – The basic causes of declining biodiversity.

Population growth

- Increases in fishing and the amount of land used for agriculture are often blamed on an increasing global population.
- About 50% of the planet’s natural habitats have been cleared for human use, mostly for agriculture, and another 0.5% to 1.5% is being cleared each year.
- In many parts of the world humans have introduced species that are not native to the area.
- This has led to the extinction of native plants and animals because they cannot compete with the new arrivals.
- Some species have been hunted to extinction.
- Many scientists believe that climate change will speed up the rate of species decline.

Figure 2a

Causes of animal extinctions since 1600

- The United Nations (UN) has three projections of future population growth that vary according to different forecasts of changes in birth rates and death rates (see Figure 2b).

Figure 2b

Global population changes 1800–2015, and projections until 2060
• Some parts of the world will experience much higher rates of population growth than others (see Figure 2c).

![Projected percentage changes in population 2015–2060](image)

**Figure 2c**

**Projected percentage changes in population 2015–2060**

- An increasing amount of land, much of it in biodiversity ‘hotspots’ in the developing world, is being bought by transnational corporations (TNCs) to grow crops for a global market of agricultural products.

- Local rural populations are often forced to move either to new areas, where they clear forest to farm, or to the rapidly growing cities.
Economic growth

- The faster economies grow, the more resources they consume; for example, the Chinese are opening at least one new coal-fired power station every week to fuel their growing economy.

- Economic growth is predicted to continue (see Figure 2d).

- Every government in the world wants faster economic growth.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Past</th>
<th>Predicted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developed Countries</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing Countries</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 2d**

Past and predicted growth rates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP, % average per year)

- The richest 1% of the global population own over 80% of global wealth.
- The vast majority of the richest 20% live in the developed world.
- The richest also consume by far the most (see Figure 2e).
- Some argue that the richest 1%, through their talent and enterprise, create jobs and opportunities for the rest.

**Figure 2e**

Global consumption of resources in 2015
Section 3 – Will technology come to the rescue?

Figure 3a
The Malthusian theory of the relationship between population growth and resources
- Malthus believed that population growth inevitably leads to population collapse as resources are exhausted when we reach carrying capacity.

Figure 3b
The Boserupian theory of the relationship between population growth and resources
- Boserup suggests that we never reach carrying capacity because of our reaction to increasing shortages of resources.
- As we get closer to the carrying capacity we invent new technologies that solve the problem.
Section 4 – Attitudes to the environment

- Attitudes to the environment and protecting biodiversity vary from place to place and from time to time (Figure 4).
- Although people express concern about the environment they often take a different view when asked about their willingness to pay more to help protect it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do you think that we should protect the environment even if it slows economic growth and costs jobs?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>% Disagree</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Britain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Would you be prepared to pay higher prices for food and other goods so that we can protect the environment better?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>% Disagree</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Britain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 4

Responses to a survey about the environment carried out in 11 countries