

## 7.3.3 Land use

### AQA GCSE Biology (Higher) Question and answer notes

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#### How to use these notes

These notes cover everything you need to know for this part of the specification. They have been written in question-answer format to make them easier for you to study from.

In order to study successfully, I recommend you do the following for each question and answer:

- Read it carefully and make sure you **understand** it.
- **Memorise** the answer.
- **Practice** applying your understanding to past exam questions.

A good way to memorise information is to use **retrieval practice**. This is when you practise retrieving information from your memory. You could do this by making a flashcard for each question with the question on one side and the answer on the other. Or you could use a flashcard app. Alternatively, use a sheet of paper to cover up the answer so you can only see the question. Try to answer the question and then check how you did.

You should practise retrieving each answer from your memory until you can do it perfectly. Even once you can retrieve the answer perfectly, your ability to retrieve it will probably fade as time passes without practising. Therefore you will need to keep going back to the questions that you have previously mastered and practising them again. However, each time you re-learn the answer, the memory will be stronger and will last longer than the time before.

#### **Which human activities reduce the amount of land available for other plants and animals?**

The following human activities reduce the amount of land available for other plants and animals:

- Farming
- Building
- Quarrying
- Dumping waste

**What is a peat bog?**

A peat bog is a type of wetland habitat that has very acidic soil. The acidity prevents plants from fully decomposing when they die, leading to a soil that is very rich in nutrients and contains a lot of carbon.

**Why are peat bogs being destroyed? What are the environmental impacts of this?**

Peat bogs are being destroyed to produce garden compost or to produce peat that is burned as a fuel. This reduces the area of the peat bog habitat, which leads to a decrease in the variety of plant, animal and microorganism species that live there - in other words a loss of biodiversity. Also, the burning of peat releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas so this causes global warming.