

7.3.5 Global warming

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.

What is global warming?

Certain gases in the atmosphere trap heat cause the temperature of planet Earth to increase. This is called global warming.

What is the name for gases that trap heat on Earth causing global warming?

Gases that trap heat on Earth causing global warming are called greenhouse gases.

What are two examples of greenhouse gases?

Two examples of greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide and methane.

What is currently happening to the concentrations of carbon dioxide and methane in the air?

The concentrations of carbon dioxide and methane in the air are currently rising.

Why are the concentrations of carbon dioxide and methane in the air increasing?

The concentrations of carbon dioxide and methane in the air are increasing due to certain human activities - especially the burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas) and certain industrial processes.

What are some of the ways in which global warming is affecting the physical world?

Global warming is affecting the physical world in many ways, including the following:

- Sea levels are rising
- Extreme weather events such as heatwaves, floods and storms are becoming more common
- Droughts are becoming more common
- The oceans are becoming warmer

How is global warming affecting living organisms?

Global warming is affecting living organisms in many ways, including the following:

- Loss of habitats due the flooding of low-lying areas
- Loss of biodiversity due to many species being unable to adapt quickly enough to the rapidly changing environment
- Changes to the distribution and migration patterns of organisms - as the conditions in different areas change, making certain areas more or less favourable than they were previously
- Reduction in crop yields in some areas due to droughts and other environmental changes