

7.5.1 Factors affecting food security

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 food security?

Food security is having enough food to feed a population.

What is famine?

Famine is an extreme shortage of food, leading many people to not have enough to eat.

What are some factors that threaten food security?

Factors that threaten food security include the following:

- Rising birth rates in some countries
- Changing diets in developed countries, which causes scarce food resources to be transported around the world
- New pests and pathogens that affect farming
- Environmental changes that affect food production, such as reduced rainfall in some countries leading to widespread famine
- Increasing costs of agricultural inputs
- Conflicts in some parts of the world that affect the availability of water or food