

**Environmental Health****Oxford Successful pg. 82-83 (Week 5)**

According to the South African Constitution:

**Environment**

Everyone has the right to:

- a) an environment that is not harmful to their health and wellbeing; and
- b) have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that:
  - i) prevent pollution and ecological degradation;
  - ii) promote conservation; and
  - iii) secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development.

V – **Environment** – the **space around us**.

- Natural, the land, air, and water
- Built, anything that has been made by people

V – **Environmental Health** – the **study of the environment** and the way that it affects **people's health and wellbeing**.

It is our responsibility to make sure that we keep our environment in a manner that is healthy so that we can also stay healthy.

We need to realise that the quality of the environment will determine the quality of life that we live. Things like pollution make the environment dirty and thus people start to get sick from such environments.

**Local environmental health problems**

V – **Environmental health problems** – **health issues** that are a **direct result of a damaged or polluted environment**.

**Air pollution:**

- It affects the quality of the **atmosphere**.

There are two forms of air pollution:

**Industrial pollution:**

- Smoke from factory chimneys that causes a poisonous fog of pollution called **smog**
- Exhaust fumes from burning fossil fuels: petrol and diesel

**Domestic pollution:**

- Making fires for cooking and heating. Burning firewood creates **smoke**.
- Cigarette smoke, paint fumes, and burning paraffin

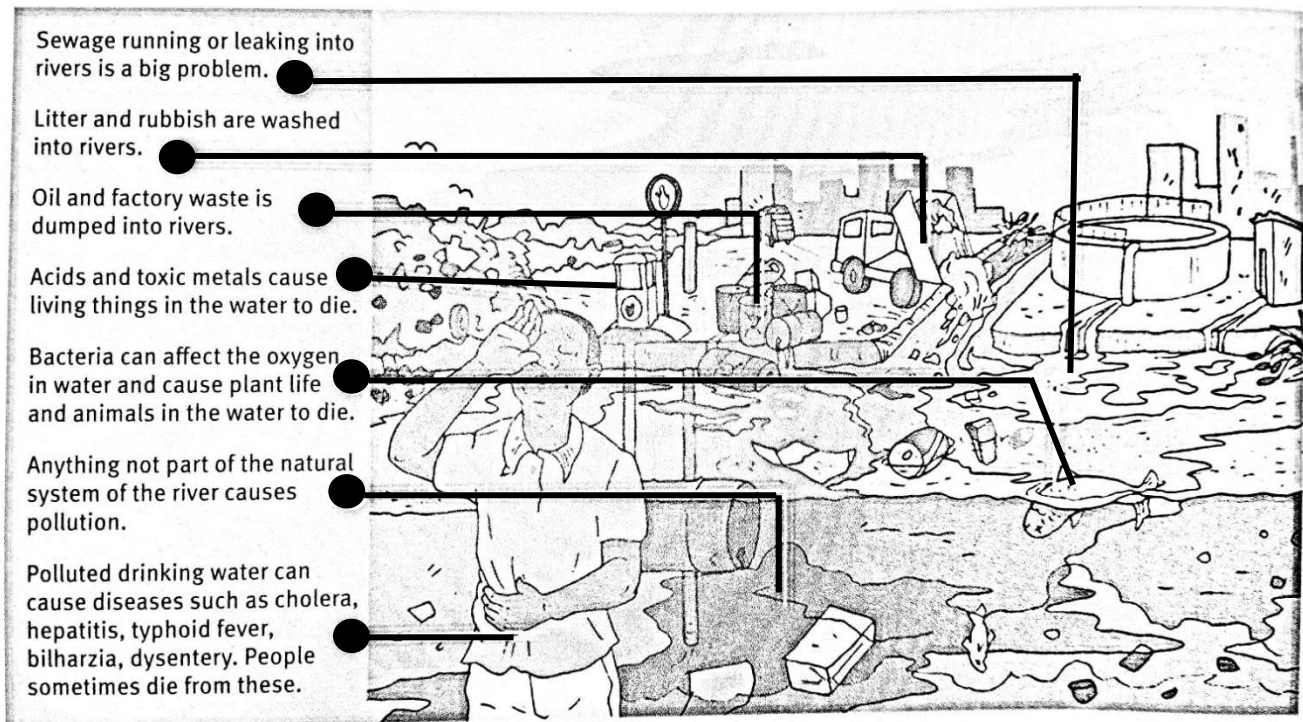
• **Harm:**

- Makes eyes and throats sore
- Causes breathing problems
- Causes allergies



**Water Pollution:**

- It affects the quality of the **hydrosphere or the water.**



**FIGURE 1** There are many causes of water pollution.

- **Harm:**  
Drinking polluted water can cause diseases like:
  - **Cholera** – a bacterial disease that cause severe diarrhoea and dehydration
  - **Hepatitis** – an inflammation of the liver
  - **Typhoid fever** – a bacterial disease that causes fever, muscle aches and skin rash
  - **Bilharzia** – a disease that can affect the liver urinary bladder and other organs
  - **Dysentery** – inflammation of the intestines and causes a bloody diarrhoea

**Land Pollution:**

- It affects the quality of the **land or ground**.

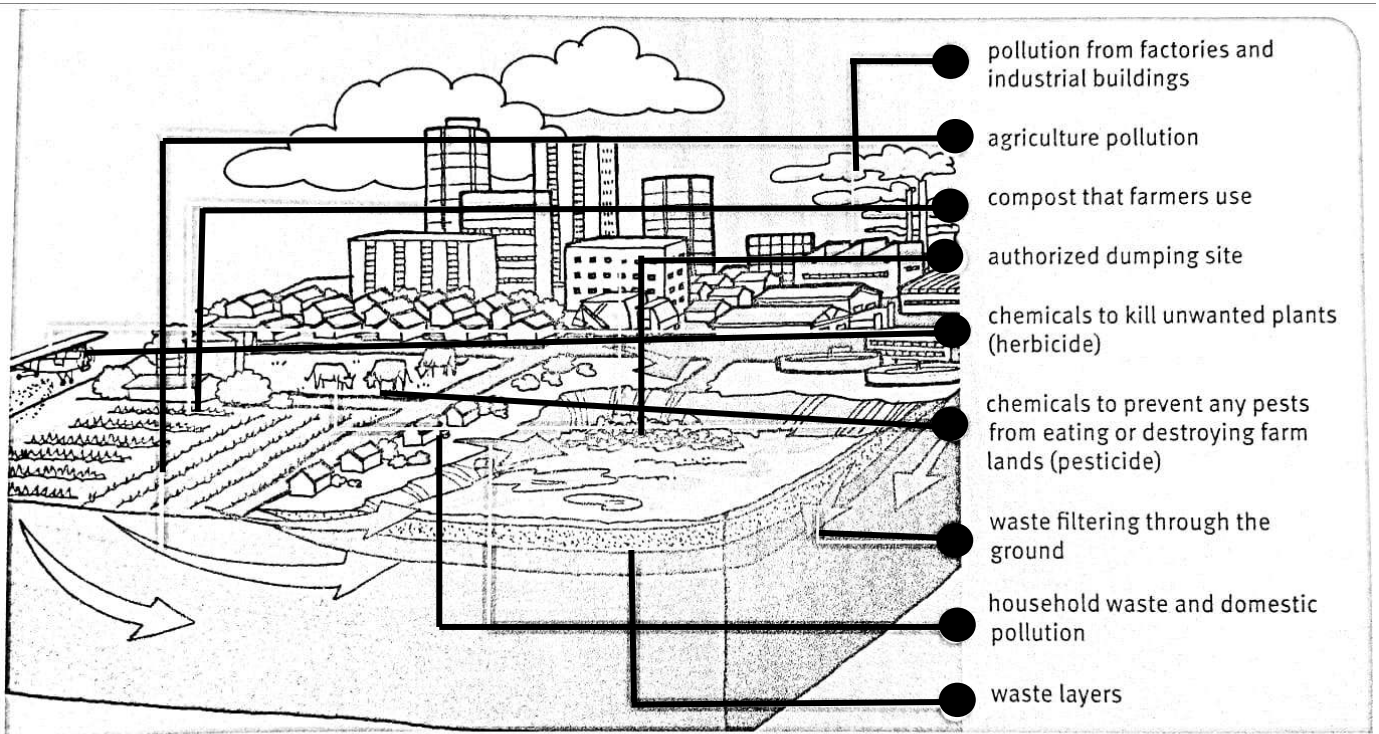


FIGURE 2 Land pollution can cause local environmental health problems.

- **Harm:**
  - **Waste disposal and landfill sites** – activities like throwing rubbish on the ground instead of dustbins causes severe land pollution
  - **Deforestation** – when people cut down trees
  - **Farming** – farmers use fertilisers that are not good for the environment and can get into the water we drink
  - **Mining** – the dumps that are left on the surface can cause damage to the environment and lead to acid mine drainage and dust storms



**Local environmental problems**

- |                                      |                              |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| A. Domestic air pollution            | E. Water pollution           |
| B. Mining                            | F. Industrial air pollution  |
| C. Sanitation and hygiene            | G. Litter                    |
| D. Chemicals and second-hand smoking | H. Vehicle exhaust emissions |

Match the pictures below with the health issues in the table above. Put the correct **LETTER** under the corresponding picture.

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.

