## 21<sup>st</sup> Century ... Challenges

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Plastic pollution in the oceans **Exam Specification Overview** 



Specification Information	Link to lesson
Edexcel Unit 1: Global challenges for the future	
(Enquiry question: What are the social and environmental consequences of globalisation and can we manage these changes for a better world?)	
<ul> <li>Globalisation brings both positive and negative changes ie a two-speed world (weighing up the positive and negative effects of mass purchasing of commodities, such as food miles, exporting jobs, packaging and worker exploitation).</li> </ul>	<b>Lesson 1</b> The global scale of the plastic pollution problem and its connection with global mass consumerism.
<ul> <li>Reducing the environmental and social costs of globalisation requires action at a variety of scales from local (recycling/landfill etc) to global (carbon credit trading, etc).</li> </ul>	<b>Lesson 2</b> A range of initiatives exist to try and reduce levels of plastic waste entering landfill and oceans, rather than being recycled
Edexcel Unit 2: Option 2 Crowded coasts	
(Enquiry question: How do various coastal developments create competition and conflict?)	<b>Lesson 1</b> The impacts of plastic pollution on wilderness shorelines.
• Fieldwork and research into the pressures on the coast when development and conservation meet head on including: the overuse of resources, pollution & the destruction of high-value coastal habitats.	<b>Lesson 2</b> The pressures and impacts of different types of plastic pollution on marine ecosystems an food webs.
Edexcel Unit 3: Biodiversity threats	
(Enquiry question: What factors and processes threaten biodiversity?)	
• The distribution of threatened areas (hotspots under threat, and areas with threatened species) reveals global patterns (investigating the global pattern of threatened areas).	<b>Lesson 1</b> The global distribution pattern of plastic pollution and its relationship with physical factors that include surface and deep ocean currents.
Global factors threaten biodiversity (from climate change and rising sea levels	Lesson 2 The pressures and impacts of different types of plastic pollution on

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<ul> <li>for instance) as well as local factors, which are often related to economic development and direct ecosystem exploitation, as well as attitudes to the value of biodiversity (developing an understanding of the location of threatened areas in terms of both local and global threats and their results).</li> <li>The link between economic development and ecosystem destruction /</li> </ul>	marine ecosystems an food webs.           Lesson 1         The spatial separation of source emissions of plastic waste from their
degradation is complex, and can be illustrated by examining named ecoregions – pristine areas, degraded areas and protected areas.	areas of impact
OCR Unit 3: Option A2 Ecosystems and environments under threat	
<ul> <li>In what ways are physical environments under threat from human activity? (Human activity poses threats to physical environments in both planned and unintended ways.)</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Lesson 1 The impacts of plastic pollution on wilderness shorelines.</li><li>Lesson 2 The pressures and impacts of different types of plastic pollution on marine ecosystems an food webs.</li></ul>
• Why does the impact of human activity on the physical environment vary over time and location? (The impact of human activity on environments varies as areas develop, and varies between different areas of the world at different stages of economic and technological development.)	<ul> <li>Lesson 1 The global distribution pattern of plastic pollution and its relationship with physical factors that include surface and deep ocean currents</li> <li>Lesson 1 The spatial separation of source emissions of plastic waste from their</li> </ul>
• The study of the contrast between countries at either end of the development continuum to illustrate: the different ways human activity can impact on physical environments (both positive and negative); why the impact on physical environments may be increasing or decreasing with economic, social and technological development.	areas of impact          Lesson 1       The global scale of the plastic pollution problem and its connection with global mass consumerism.
WJEC Unit 3	
• <i>Theme 5 - Globalisation</i> Who loses from global shift and globalisation? (The environmental effects of globalisation.)	<b>Lesson 1</b> The global scale of the plastic pollution problem and its connection with global mass consumerism
• Theme 7 - Atmospheric and Water Pollution Individual Research Enquiry	<b>Lesson 2</b> The pressures and impacts of different types of plastic pollution on marine ecosystems an food webs.
	<b>Lesson 1</b> The impacts of plastic pollution on wilderness shorelines.
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<ul> <li><b>IB P2: Option B Oceans and their coastal margins</b></li> <li>Describe the sources and distribution of pollution in the oceans.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Lesson 1 The global distribution pattern of plastic pollution and its relationship with physical factors that include surface and deep ocean currents.</li> <li>Lesson 1 The spatial separation of source emissions of plastic waste from their areas of impact</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>IB P3: Global interactions &amp; transboundary pollution</li> <li>Describe one major pollution event affecting more than one country and examine the consequences of and responses to this event.</li> <li>Examine the growth of environmental awareness as a consequence of these global interactions.</li> <li>Examine the role of one international civil society organization in fostering improved environmental management.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Lesson 1 The spatial separation of source emissions of plastic waste from their areas of impact (using the duck flotilla case study as the 'event').</li> <li>Lesson 1 The impacts of plastic pollution on wilderness shorelines.</li> <li>Lesson 1 The global scale of the plastic pollution problem and its connection with global mass consumerism.</li> <li>Lesson 2 A range of initiatives exist to try and reduce levels of plastic waste entering landfill and oceans, rather than being recycled</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>AQA Unit 3: Option 3 Ecosystems Change and Challenge</li> <li>Ecosystem issues on a global scale</li> <li>The relationships between human activity, biodiversity and sustainability</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Lesson 1 The global distribution pattern of plastic pollution and its relationship with physical factors that include surface and deep ocean currents.</li> <li>Lesson 2 The pressures and impacts of different types of plastic pollution on marine ecosystems an food webs.</li> <li>Lesson 1 The global scale of the plastic pollution problem and its connection with global mass consumerism.</li> <li>Lesson 2 A range of sustainability initiatives exist to try and reduce levels of plastic waste entering landfill and oceans, rather than being recycled</li> </ul>