



Course Companion

for WJEC GCSE Food and Nutrition:
Where food comes from

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Teacher's Introduction

This resource is designed to meet the Area 5: Where food comes from element of the WJEC GCSE Food and Nutrition qualification.

What it covers

The resource comprises three chapters covering the following:

Chapter 1: Food provenance	Chapter 2: British and international cuisines	Chapter 3: Food manufacturing
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The origins of food (where and how food is caught, grown or reared)• Sustainability and security of food	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• British cuisine• International cuisines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food processing (primary and secondary)• Technological developments which support health and food production

How to use this resource

The resource covers all aspects of food safety and is designed to increase knowledge of the topic and enable learners to test their understanding and skills through a variety of assessment methods.

Learning Outcomes enable the learner to clearly see what they are expected to know at the end of each chapter.

The **Overview** provides a brief summary of what will be covered in the chapter and the **Key Terms** provides information on key terms within the resource (key terms are emboldened within the chapter text).

Did you know?	These boxes contain handy tips.
Things to think about	These boxes provide learners with a chance to develop cognitive skills, do some research (books, Internet, people) and take part in a discussion.
Apply	These boxes provide the learner with the opportunity to further their skills, either through cognitive or practical application.
Qs	These test learners' knowledge and understanding through quick Y/N questions.
Skills	Based on the suggested application of skills section of the WJEC GCSE Food Preparation specification, these test learners' food safety skills through practical application.
Study tip	Useful tips to help the learner concentrate on important aspects of the text that may appear in the final assessment.
Check your understanding	Multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-answer questions appear at the end of each section to test knowledge and develop understanding.
Quiz-ine	A crossword-style quiz at the end of each chapter to test learners' understanding of key terms used in the resource. The shaded squares spell out a word associated with the chapter text.
Answers	Answers to questions are provided at the end of the resource.

A webpage containing all the links listed in this resource is conveniently provided on ZigZag Education's website at zzed.uk/8258

You may find this helpful for accessing the websites rather than typing in each URL.



M Golebiowska, March 2018

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Register your email address to receive any future free updates* made to this resource or other Food and Nutrition resources your school has purchased, and details of any promotions for your subject.

* resulting from minor specification changes, suggestions from teachers and peer reviews, or occasional errors reported by customers

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Chapter 1: Food provenance

Overview

In this chapter you will learn how foods are grown, reared and caught. You will discover various methods of farming, and their advantages and disadvantages. You will also learn to recognise various types of fruit, vegetable, meat and fish. In the second section of this chapter you will learn about food security and sustainability of resources.

Learning outcomes

After studying this chapter, you should be able to do the following:

- ☐ know and distinguish between grown, reared and caught
- ☐ classify fruit, vegetables, meats and fish
- ☐ understand the advantages and disadvantages of various methods of food production
- ☐ understand the impact of food production on the environment
- ☐ describe various aspects of food security and effectiveness of resources

Key Terms

Affordable	When something, e.g. food is not too expensive for most people
Availability	When it is possible to buy or get a sufficient amount of something
Carbon footprint	How much energy has to be used, and, therefore, how much carbon dioxide is produced, in the production, processing and transportation of foods
Factory farming	Type of agriculture focused on intensifying food production by confining animals in small areas of land, to increase production of milk and meat, but at potential costs
Fairtrade	Ethical category that enables fair wages and prices for food producers in developing countries; designed to prevent human exploitation
Fish farms	Tanks or enclosed sea areas in which fish or seafood is reared
Food miles	How far the food has to travel from the producer to the consumer
Food poverty	Inability to provide oneself with enough food, both in terms of quantity and quality
Food security	A term created by the United Nations, meaning that, at any time, in the world, each person should have access to a sufficient quantity of food
Food waste	Food that is rotten, spoiled or wasted in another way, and hence unusable
Free-range	Farming method in which animals and birds are allowed to move freely outdoors during the day
Game	The meat of hunted animals and birds
Genetically modified (GM)	When the DNA of a given organism is manipulated by genetic engineering
Greenhouse gases	Gases which tend to trap heat in the atmosphere, increasing the temperature. They include water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and ozone
Intensive farming	Type of agriculture focused on intensifying food production by using fertilisers, herbicides, GM crops and other methods
Livestock	All animals that are bred and reared to provide food, work or transport
Local food	Food produced locally, in a given region
Orchard	Enclosed area of land used to grow fruit or nut trees
Organic	Grown or reared with restricted use of any chemicals, pesticides, herbicides or GM feed and GM organisms, under strict conditions
Polytunnel	Tunnel frame covered with polyethylene, used to grow plants
Poultry	The meat of farmed birds, e.g. chicken and turkey
Seasonal food	Food characteristic for a given season of the year
Sustainability	Ability to maintain the natural environment and produce goods and services
Venison	The meat of a deer

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The origins of food: where food comes from

For a long time, people were hunter-gatherers, which means that their diet was based on what was available in their surroundings. This included wild animal meat, fish, and some fruit and herbs. Agriculture was invented and started to revolutionise humans' diet. Today, most of our food is produced using modern technologies; only a small amount of the food we eat is still gathered from the wild.

Food has to be grown, reared, caught or gathered, before it is processed and can be served on plates. In this section we will discuss the different methods of food production and how they affect the food we eat.

Grown foods

Foods may be grown in fields, orchards or polytunnels.

The most traditional way of growing foods includes fields and **orchards**. These are large areas in which roots, bushes and trees are grown to produce vegetables, fruits, nuts and seeds. They are kept under the open sky, which means that they are susceptible to all weather changes, low and high temperatures, droughts and floods, soil overexploitation, pests, rodents, wild animals and birds. Managing a field or an orchard in a certain region also involves deciding what plants are actually capable of living in given conditions. All these factors mean that crops from fields and orchards are very unpredictable and require various treatments to overcome all possible dangers. To increase crops and prevent possible damage, most farmers decide to use pesticides, herbicides and many other chemicals.

Did you know?

The UK has a lot of 'arable' land, which is land used for growing crops.

Did you know?

51% of the UK is used for growing crops, with wheat being the least common.



Picking apples in an orchard



Field of wheat

Polytunnels were invented in the 1940s to enable the growth of tropical fruits and vegetables. They are long, plastic tunnels created to ensure the right temperature and humidity necessary for proper development of such plants. Thanks to polytunnels, we can enjoy strawberries, cucumbers and lettuce all year long. Polytunnels protect the plants from external hazards such as weather changes or insects, and, therefore, it is easier to predict how much food will be produced.



Strawberries in a polytunnel

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Where food is grown	What food is grown there	
Field	grains	cereals such as wheat, barley, oats
	oil plants	flax seed, rapeseed
	root vegetables, cruciferous plants and brassicas	potatoes, carrots, cabbages
Orchard	mostly hard fruit and nuts	apples, cherries, pears, olives, walnuts
Polytunnel	mainly soft fruit	strawberries, raspberries, tomatoes
	vegetables	lettuces, rocket, aubergines
	herbs and mushrooms	white mushrooms, oyster mushrooms

Did you know?

Some vegetables such as lettuce, basil or wasabi may be grown using hydroponics. This means they are not planted in soil, but their roots are put directly in water.

Research

Find out what plants can be grown hydroponically at <http://modularhydro.com/ArticleLibrary/WhatCanYouGrowHydroponically>



Hydroponic farming

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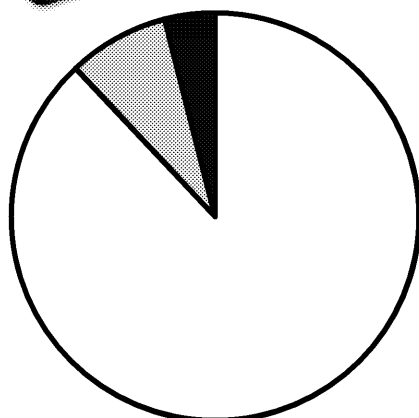


The region in which people live often determines what can be grown and, therefore, determines their diet. This usually is embodied in national dishes; for example, Mexican cuisine uses a lot of sweetcorn because maize grows in Mexico, but traditional British cuisine doesn't have any sweetcorn in it because the grain was introduced to the UK only at the end of the fifteenth century, and for a long time couldn't even be grown here because of the climate.

The charts below illustrate the main three grains consumed around the world – wheat, rice and maize.

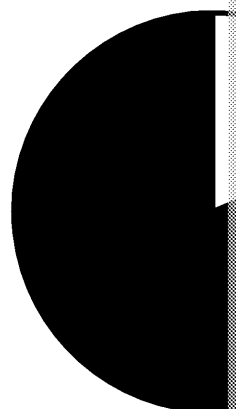
Notice how consumption patterns change with the region and climate of each country. Rice is the most popular food in the world (30% of total consumption), followed by wheat (18% of total consumption). Next, there are vegetables (8%).

 United Kingdom



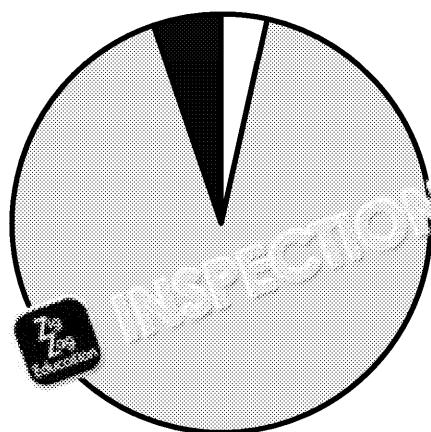
■ Wheat ■ Rice ■ Maize

Mexico



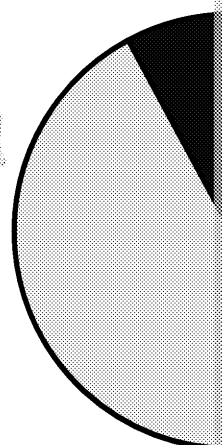
■ Wheat ■ Rice ■ Maize

Vietnam



■ Wheat ■ Rice ■ Maize

Japan



■ Wheat ■ Rice ■ Maize

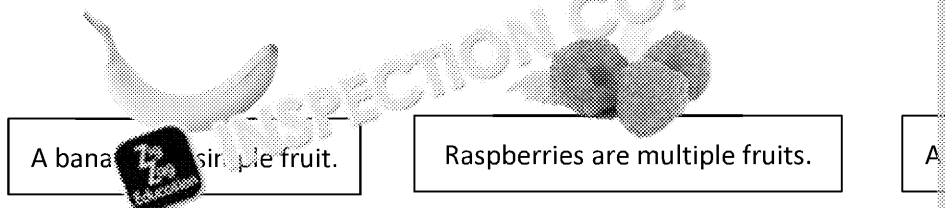
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Classification of fruit and vegetables

Botanically, fruits are plant parts which develop from fertilised flowers. They usually carry one or more seeds, which allow the reproduction of the plant. Due to the development of technology, it is possible to produce fruits which are seedless. Generally, a fruit consists of a seed or seeds surrounded by a pericarp (the soft or hard fleshy part) and covered with skin. An exception is the strawberry, which has its seeds on the outside.

Fruits can be classified according to how many flowers they have developed from. This means we can differentiate between simple fruit (developed from one ovary / flower), multiple fruit (developed from multiple flowers gathered into a mass) and aggregate fruit (developed from multiple ovaries of a single flower).



Fruits can also be classified according to their type / culinary use.

Tree fruits	grow on trees, have an edible skin and firm texture	apple, pear
Stone fruits	have a hard stone in the middle, usually surrounded by a soft, fleshy pericarp	plum, cherry
Berries / soft fruits	soft texture and small pips	strawberry, blueberry
Dry fruits	their skin becomes dry once they reach maturity	plum, nut
Exotic fruits	characteristic of tropical countries, not grown in the UK	banana, mango, kiwi fruit
Citrus fruits	surrounded by tough, aromatic skin; have a juicy texture	orange, lemon

Vegetables can be classified according to which part of the plant they come from.

Fruits	ingredients which are botanically fruit, but are used as vegetables in cooking	courgette, cucumber, aubergine
Seeds	those which grow in pods (which are also sometimes eaten)	green peas, beans
Flowers	the edible flowers	artichoke, broccoli
Leaves	formed by the leaves	lettuce, kale, cabbage
Stems	the edible stem which constitutes the main part of the vegetable	asparagus, celery
Roots	usually long or rounded in shape	carrot, parsnip, beetroot, sugar beet
Bulbs	grow just below the surface of the ground and are formed of many layers	garlic, onion, leek
Tubers	developed from the root of the plant	potato, yam, Jerusalem artichoke
Fungi	many mushrooms can grow both above and below the ground	Portobello, button

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Things to think about

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of growing foods in fields.

Cereals can be generally classified as starchy cereals (e.g. wheat, barley, oats, rice).

Reared foods

People have learnt to rear a number of species to satisfy the needs of growing populations (among others) cattle, goats, sheep, pigs, rabbits and poultry. Animals are reared for their milk and wool, and for their muscle power (for example, horses are still used as working animals in some countries). Also their excrement is used to produce energy or as a fertiliser. According to local habits or requests, people can rear camels, reindeer or even snails.

The need to maintain economic growth and produce more and more food has led to the development of **factory farms**. These are usually large enterprises, rearing hundreds or often thousands of livestock. This applies especially to cows (milk farms), pigs (reared mainly for pork) and hens (reared for eggs or meat). Factory farms often apply the rules of **intensive farming** to increase production and the profit it brings.

Apply

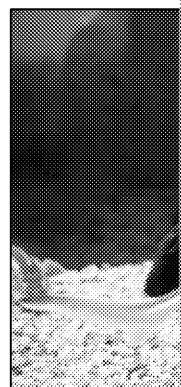
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The following table is a summary of what animals people rear and why.

What people rear...	
Cattle	Leather, beef, milk
Poultry	Meat
Horses	Meat, entertainment
Pigs	Pork, leather

Also, some fish are considered reared foods. These include salmon, trout, cod, carp, catfish and some shellfish raised on **fish farms** that were created especially for human needs. In fish farms, fish are kept in large containers (fish tanks), which are sometimes seriously overcrowded.

Although this might be ethically dubious, fish farms help to prevent and avoid overfishing of the seas and oceans, and help to preserve naturally occurring species. The fish in fish farms is reared for meat and caviar, and leftovers or non-edible parts are used to produce animal feed.



Sturgeon

Research

Read more about fish farming in the UK at <https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/animals/fish/farming> and draw up steps in fish production. Do fish farms use organic or conventional farming methods?

Poultry, such as chickens, geese and turkeys, is also reared around the world for meat and eggs. The animals are kept in henhouses. The birds may be kept in tight cages, or more freely around the house and even be allowed to go outside. The way in which poultry is reared affects the quality of meat and eggs produced. Also, **organic farming** rules may apply here – this is why organic meat and eggs are more expensive, as they are not given antibiotics if not necessary, etc.

Nowadays, it is more and more popular to rear animals which were traditionally hunted.

You may sometimes meet ecologists or animal welfare activists who are protesting about the conditions the animals are kept in or the way they are treated.

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An example of this is rearing geese in France using a method in which feed is forced into their stomachs via tubes to increase the growth of liver and fat tissue, for the production of foie gras. This method of rearing has been labelled as cruel and, therefore, banned in the UK, although it is legal to buy foie gras.

Another example is squeezing many animals in tight boxes placed on top of each other, as is the case in battery farms (cage egg farms). The hens can also have their wings cut to prevent them from moving too much and their beaks trimmed to prevent them from fighting with each other.



Force-feeding
fattening

Other concerns include:

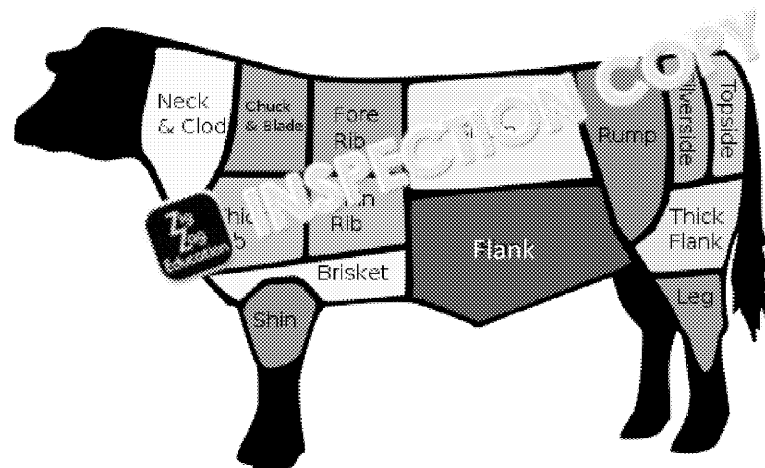
- keeping animals in closed buildings without access to natural sunlight
- cramming in animals so they can't turn around or move (e.g. cows in feedlots)
- using antibiotics to prevent diseases and speed up the growth of animals, which can lead to the development of antibiotic-resistant strains (which, in the near future, may lead to creation of new, lethal diseases)
- genetically manipulating DNA of animals to produce more muscle tissue, eggs, etc. (e.g. transgenic animals would produce more meat or milk)
- overexploiting animals, which shortens their life (an intensely reared cow lives for around 20 years for one living in the wild)
- transport conditions – when animals are finally transported to slaughterhouses, they are often packed in trucks and often spend a couple of days without food or water before they are slaughtered
- slaughtering conditions, in which animals' throats are slit open and the animals are bled out

Classification of meat and poultry

Meat is the muscle tissue of animals. Usually it can be divided into:

- lamb (meat from sheep younger than 12 months)
- beef and veal
- pork (from pig)
- poultry (from chicken, duck, turkey, goose, etc.)
- game (both from mammals and birds – see caught foods for more info)
- offal (the edible internal organs of the animal)

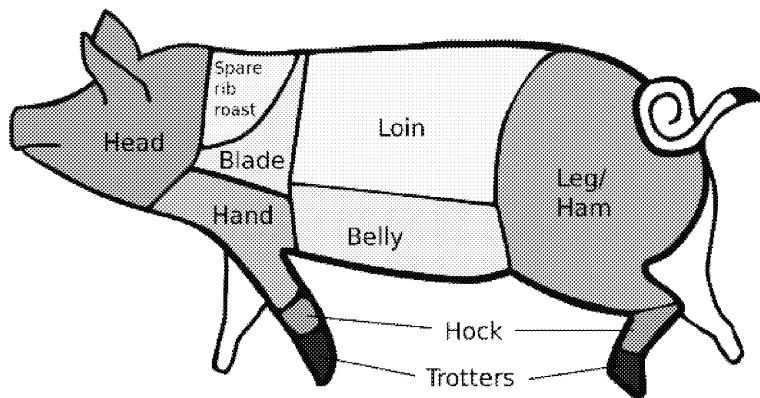
The origin of meat and the way the animal was reared determines its quality, flavour and texture. Different cuts of beef, pork and lamb, and their culinary uses, are shown in the diagrams below.



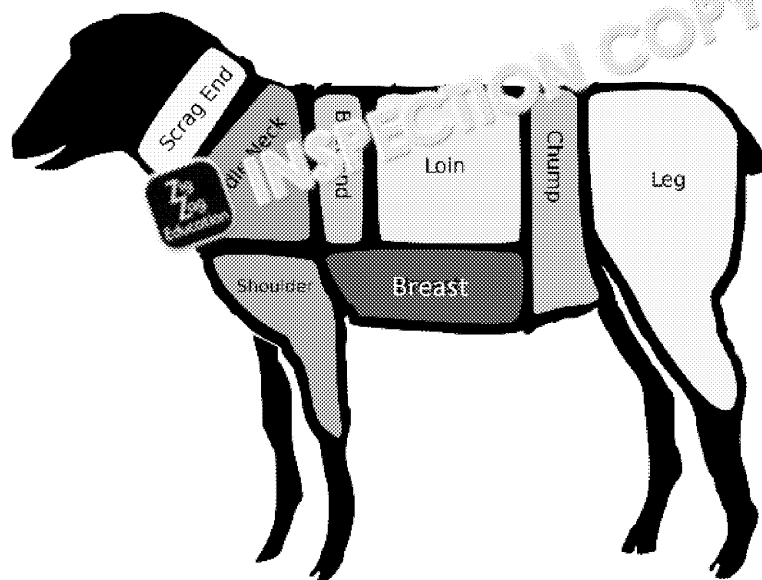
- Chuck and Blade – used for braising
- Fore rib – used for roasting
- Sirloin – steaks, also used in mince
- Rump – steaks
- Silverside – used for roasting
- Flank (skirt) – used for roasting
- Leg and shin – used for roasting
- Thin rib – used for roasting
- Thick rib – used for roasting
- Brisket – used for roasting

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Head – slow cooking
Spare rib – braising, roasting
Blade – slow cooking
Loin – grilling, roasting
Leg (ham) – braising, roasting
Belly – bacon, roasting, braising
Hand – slow cooking
Hocks and Trotters – slow cooking



Scrag end – braising, roasting
Best end (rack) – roasting
Loin – grilling, roasting
Chump – grilling, roasting
Leg – roasting
Breast – roasting
Shoulder – slow cooking

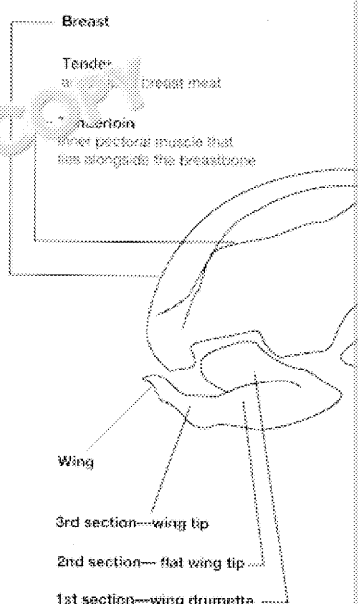
Meat can also be divided into fatty or lean, depending on the amount of fat it contains. Bacon is fatty, while tenderloin is an example of lean meat.

Research

Go to <http://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/home-science/meat/meat-meat-and-classification/86567/> to see how lamb, beef and pork are further classified.

Poultry includes the meat of domesticated fowl, such as chicken, turkey, duck and geese. The diagram (right) shows the main cuts of poultry carcass.

The breast is usually the tenderest part, which requires only a short cooking time. The bones are rich in collagen, which makes them a suitable base for preparing soups (savoury jelly). After marinating, poultry meat can be grilled, steamed, stir-fried or roasted. The carcass that is left after portioning (consisting of the neck, backbone, ribs and tail) can be used as a base for preparing soups and stocks. It is important to remember that fat in poultry accumulates mainly under the skin, so removing the skin is a good way of reducing the calorific value of a dish.



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Caught foods

Caught foods include all wild animals that can be hunted and eaten. This includes game and wild fish that live in the seas and oceans (such as tuna, mackerel, herring and shellfish).

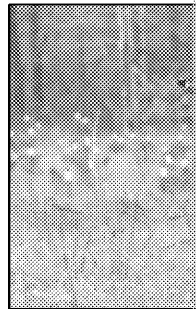
In the United Kingdom, game (or quarry) is defined by the Game Act of 1831 and the Deer Act of 1991. The name applies to such animal species as grouse, ducks, geese, pheasants, hares, rabbits and deer. Meat from a deer can also be called *venison*.

People have been hunting animals for centuries – either for food, horns and antlers, sport or entertainment. Since this has led to the extinction of many species, it is now often either forbidden to hunt certain species or it is allowed in certain seasons only.

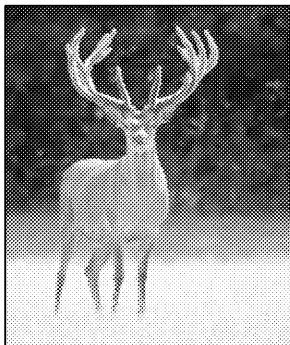
Some wild animals are especially those high in numbers and causing damage to crops can be hunted all year long with a permit. This applies to wild boar, for example.



Pheasant is often hunted for its delicate meat



Certain breeds of pheasant are bred to be hunted



Some species, such as deer, can only be hunted outside the breeding season. This is to protect the species and prevent it from becoming overpopulated.



An angler shows a fish caught on a rod.

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Classification of fish and game

Caught animals can be divided into:

- small birds, e.g. thrush, quail
- winged game, e.g. pheasant, wild geese, woodcock, grouse, partridge
- ground game, e.g. hare, rabbit
- big game, e.g. deer, wild boar, moose, caribou

Since these animals live in the wild, we have no control over what they may have could carry. For this reason, it is advisable to have them checked by a vet before as they could carry parasites such as *Trichinella spiralis*.

Fish for culinary purposes can be divided into subgroups depending on:

- their natural environment – saltwater fish or freshwater fish
- their shape – flatfish or roundfish
- their fat content – lean fish (less than 5% fat), mid-fat fish and oily fish (more

Examples of quality, type of fish are shown in the table below.

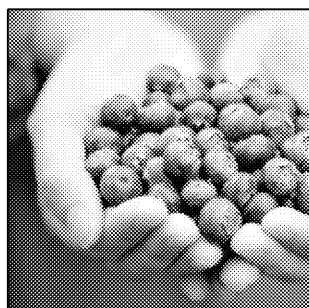
Criterion	Type of fish	Examples
Origin	Saltwater fish	Cod, mackerel, sea bream
	Freshwater fish	Carp, salmon
Shape	Flatfish	Sea bream, sole
	Roundfish	Carp, salmon
Fat content	Lean fish	Cod, sea bream
	Mid-fat fish	Halibut
	Oily fish	Herring, mackerel

Nowadays, more and more animals that have traditionally been classified as caught on farms, such as oyster farms. This helps to control their quality and safety, as well as the products produced. It also helps to protect the environment and save wild animals from extinction.

Did you know?

In some countries and communities, gathering foods is still popular. This includes gathering herbs, mushrooms, wild berries and roots.

Herbs such as stinging nettles may then be used for production of herbal teas, certain kinds of cheese, medicines and dietary supplements, cosmetic products and animal feed. Mushroom picking is popular, especially in Eastern Europe where various kinds of mushrooms are picked from early May (e.g. chanterelles) to late October (e.g. boletus).



Picking mushrooms and forest fruit is popular in many European countries.

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Check your understanding: Where food comes from

1. Cattle are reared for... (1 mark)

a. meat	<input type="checkbox"/>	b. milk	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. biofuel	<input type="checkbox"/>	d. all of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Reared foods do not include... (1 mark)

a. salmon	<input type="checkbox"/>	b. duck	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. hen	<input type="checkbox"/>	d. triticale	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Which method allows year-round availability of food? (1 mark)

a. growing wheat in the field	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. growing strawberries in polytunnels	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. growing apples in orchards	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. growing lettuce in the field	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Name two examples of foods which can be both reared and caught. (2 marks)
.....
.....

5. Explain two reasons behind rearing fish in fish farms. (4 marks)
1
.....
2
.....

6. Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of growing plants in polytunnels. (4 marks)
.....
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How food is grown, reared or ca

All food ingredients can be grown or reared in various ways. Most commonly use and **factory farming**, although in the past decade **organic** farming has been gaining you will learn about various methods of food production, including various metho production.

Conventional farming

Conventional (or **intensive**) farming is a kind of agriculture in which the main target To achieve that, farmers may choose to use:

- pesticides
- herbicides
- GM seeds which are resistant to poor weather conditions
- artificial fertilisers
- or all of the above

Conventional farming usually leads to deterioration in soil quality, which means it cannot be used for growing any more. Conventional farming may also lead to low compromised ecosystems, since so many chemicals are introduced. Since conventional agriculture) allows the use of fertilisers, pesticides, chemicals and GM organisms, high-yield crops and, therefore, produces a larger amount of food for a greater number used more and more often since it increases production and raises profits.

Studies have shown that various pesticides and chemicals used in conventional farming may be harmful for human health. Also, intensive farming includes the choice of certain breeds to increase crops, which may lead to some species extinction. For example, genetically modified seeds are more resistant to water, so will survive during a flood, while naturally occurring seeds will rot. Also, choosing to rear just one breed of cow because it produces more muscle tissue for meat means that all the other breeds will not be reared any more.

Did you know?

The use of antibiotics on pigs has led to many bacteria becoming resistant.

This is dangerous as there will be no antibiotics to help people with infections.

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Factory farming

Factory farming is an agriculture method in which a large amount of **livestock** is kept in order to increase production of meat, milk or eggs, and to lower possible costs and invest in profit. As profit is the most important consideration, factory farms can choose to rear certain types of animals (with less biodiversity) and use antibiotics to prevent potential diseases. Other practices may include cutting birds' wings or beaks to prevent them fighting with each other, with the aim of improving welfare activists and organisations.

Organic farming

As opposed to conventional and factory farming, organic farming is focused on producing food while maintaining soil quality, ecosystems, natural resources and biodiversity. Organic farming is subject to many legal restrictions; it can only use very restricted chemicals – not including artificial fertilisers, pesticides, herbicides – and cannot use preventive antibiotics, **genetically modified (GM)** crops or animal feed made with the use of GM crops. Organic farmers can sustain their crops through the use of natural methods such as crop rotation and natural fertilisers (e.g. manure) to support soil health. Antibiotics can only be used in case of disease (to cure it, not prevent it).

The way we grow and rear our food is very important due to health and environmental reasons.

Organic farming means that fewer fertilisers and pesticides are used (under restriction) and most are naturally based.

Study Tip



'Organic' means:

- fewer pesticides
- no artificial colours or preservatives
- the highest standards of animal welfare
- no routine use of antibiotics
- GM free

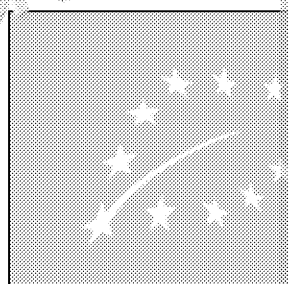
It is believed that organic food is healthier than conventional foods. Organic farming requires more resources and, therefore, is more expensive. Organic farmers use natural ways of preserving nutrients in the soil and plants to fertilise the crops and fight off pests. This allows maintenance of species diversity and plant many different species to ensure resilience. As naturally occurring plants have varied water, sunlight and warmth, farmers grow different varieties, as others would struggle in different conditions.

Research

Find out more about organic food at <http://www.organicukfood.com/>



Soil Association
organic symbol



EU organic logo

Organic farming in the United Kingdom is promoted by the Soil Association, which sets standards and is a certification body for farmers. Specific and detailed restrictions are set by the European Union (EU) to ensure standards are met around the continent.

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Sustainable farming

Sustainable farming allows the use of modern technologies but under the condition of the ability to maintain their populations. It is especially important in fishing, since extensive countries and corporations have put many wild fish species at risk of extinction (e.g. blue whales). Sustainable farming means that eco-friendly rules are applied in order to maintain the environment, animal welfare and quality of life are maintained, and various resources (such as water) are used efficiently.

It is worth noting that sustainable farming and intensive farming can work together to ensure the maintenance of high-yield crops, and keep soil healthy and nutritious for future generations.

Research

Visit the website <http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/what-we-are-doing/seafood/sustainable-seafood-frequently-asked-questions> and list fish species that are endangered due to overfishing. Then research fish species which are sustainable.

Seasonal and locally produced foods

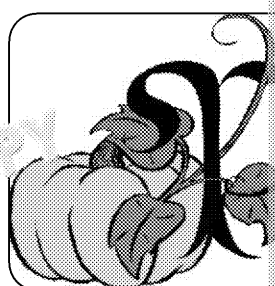
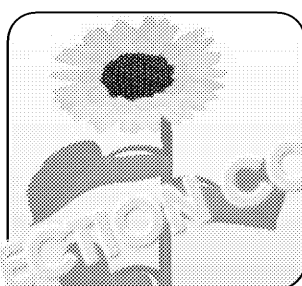
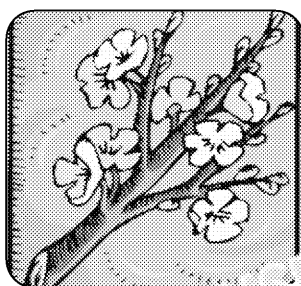
Before the development of modern technologies, people had to eat what was available in their environment. This forced them to eat only seasonally growing, **local foods** (for example, no lemons or oranges). Today, some people are turning back to the idea, claiming that it is better for the environment and health.

There are four main seasons of the year, and each can be characterised by different food products.

- In spring, most plants start to bloom and produce their first shoots. As June approaches, the first fruits become available.
- Summer is usually very rich in various fruit and vegetables, because sunlight, warmth and moisture provide them with excellent growth conditions.
- In autumn, most root vegetables are harvested. Also, while the crops last, fruit is produced for the winter.
- In winter very few plants produce any food, and, therefore, the diet is based on stored food kept during the whole year – thus, Christmas pudding is full of dried fruit!

Did you know?

This is close to the concept of 'five flavours', which is a traditional Chinese diet based on what's locally available in each season.



Summer

Autumn

Spring
peas
rhubarb
leeks
cauliflowers
lettuces
kale
spring onions

Summer
peas
berries
courgettes
cucumbers
cherries
peaches
apricots

Autumn
aubergines
apples
pears
plums
pumpkins
celery
cabbages

Plant foods characteristic of each season

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The development of transportation, increasing imports and new technologies have allowed people to bypass these rules. Thanks to these developments, tomatoes, for example, can be produced in polytunnels and oranges can be brought from overseas, and some fruit and vegetables (such as strawberries) are available all year long!

Seasonality applies also to non-plant foods. It may just as well be linked to fish, meat, poultry and eggs. This is based on the natural cycles of animals' lives – from birth, through growth to maturity and breeding.

Also, cheese production has, for hundreds of years, been linked to the lactation of cows and sheep produce milk between March and October only and, therefore, it is tastier then. However, intensive farming methods allow production of milk all year and we enjoy tasty, fresh cheese whenever we wish.

Examples of seasonal animal-based foods are shown in the table below.

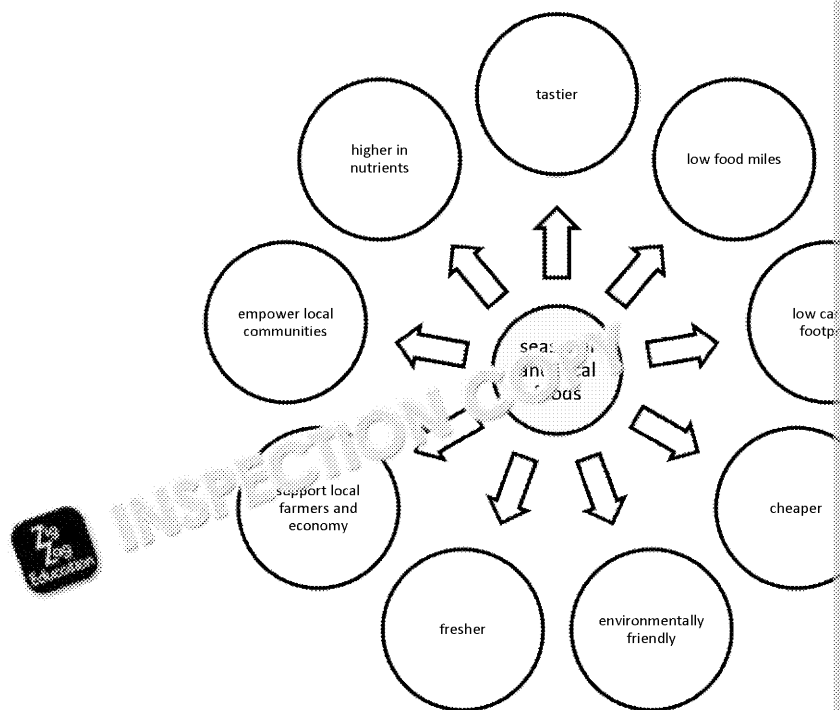
Month	Food available
January	Duck, turkey, haddock, halibut, lobster, oysters
February	Hare, partridge, venison, lemon sole, scallops, turbot
March	Mussels, oysters, salmon, mackerel
April	Lamb, wood pigeon, crab, plaice, sea trout
May	Lamb, prawns, sardines, shrimps
June	Scallops, coley, herring
July	Rabbit, pollock, whitebait
August	Beef, lamb, rabbit, venison, monkfish, pilchard
September	Beef, duck, grouse, guinea fowl, crab
October	Goose, venison, mackerel, oysters
November	Mallard, pheasant, turkey, skate, winkles
December	Goose, rabbit, turkey, venison, cod, Dover sole, queen scallops

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Advantages and disadvantages of local and seasonal foods

As with anything, seasonal and local foods have their benefits and downsides.



It is believed that **seasonal foods** are higher in nutrients – that’s because they were grown in natural conditions, with access to water, nutrient-rich soil and natural sunlight. Also, as they are produced locally and, therefore, there is no need to pick them prematurely to transport them long distances.

For this reason, the foods are fresher, because there is no need to store them for long periods of time because they don’t have to travel long distances from producer to customer.

Because the foods are often left to ripen naturally, they are higher in sugars and are therefore tastier.

Local production is also environmentally friendly because it reduces the food miles and carbon footprint (you will learn more about these later on in this chapter).

Low transport costs is a factor that affects the final price of the food, usually making it cheaper.

Buying locally also enables economic growth, supports local communities and encourages local farmers.

The disadvantages of seasonal and local food include:

- narrow choice – because only certain foods can be produced on an area of given size (due to climate and soil conditions)
- lack of diversity
- unpredictability – weather changes such as droughts and vermin may lead to lower quantities of crops, which may result in food shortage or food waste and the need for storage)
- loss of opportunity – because you can eat or cook only what’s just growing or available, you may not have something to eat for dinner (unless there are rice crops nearby)
- need for creativity – so that your meals aren’t boring (after all, you only have a couple of ingredients to use)

Research

Visit the website <http://www.eattheseasons.co.uk> to list the foods which are characteristic of the current season. Are any of them produced in your area?

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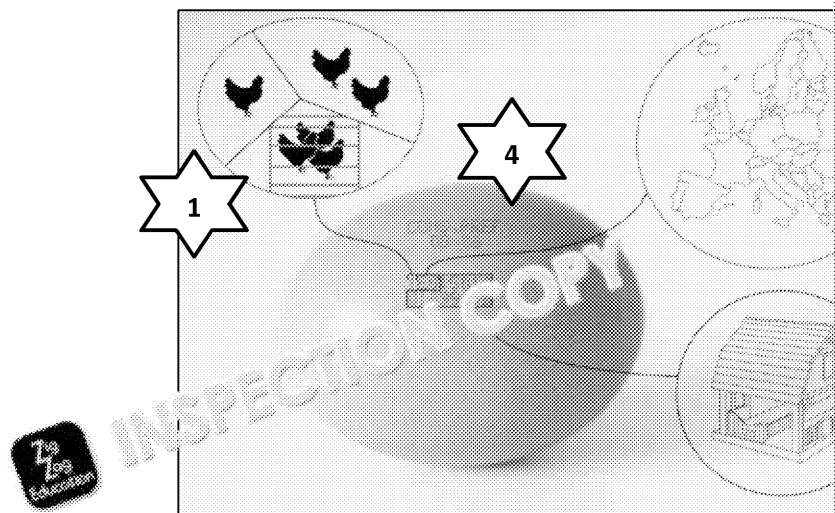
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APR

Egg production – cage, barn, free-range and organic

The way eggs are produced affects their safety and nutritional value. In the European Union, all eggs must be labelled with a stamp that contains certain information about their origin and method of production.



The stamp on the eggs has to contain the following information: 1) method of production; 2) producer's ID; 3) date marks.

1. The first information in the code is **method of production**. This refers to the way the hens were reared and shows whether they were kept in cages, allowed to move around the barn or allowed outside.

Did you know?

The advocates of organic egg production claim that organic eggs are healthier, tastier, and that the hens are happier and live longer.

The details of egg production methods are specified in the table below.

Method of production	Description
Cage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hens are kept in tight cages placed on top of each other Hens cannot move around the barn Hens often have cut wings to minimise movement Hens may have trimmed beaks to avoid fights The most popular method in Great Britain Very cost-effective
Barn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hens can move freely around the barn Hens can have cut wings to prevent them from flying Hens may have trimmed beaks to avoid fights Lighting in the barn—activity—sleep time is regulated by artificial lighting
Free-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hens are let outside for at least part of the day Space per bird is increased (stocking density is nine birds per square metre) Perching space provided for each hen Hens have access to natural sunlight for at least part of the day Second most popular method in Great Britain
Organic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has to respect all criteria for free-range rearing Birds have to be fed organic feed only

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Did you know?

In the United Kingdom, animal welfare can be ensured by following the standards of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA). The logo can be found on foods where animals have had a better life. This applies to meat and poultry.

The code on the label also indicates:

2. The country of origin. This is indicated by the letters following method of production and uses commonly recognised country symbols; for example, UK means United Kingdom, ES means Spain, DE stands for Germany and NL is the Netherlands.
3. The farm ID. This allows you to trace which farm produced the egg; this is especially important if food poisoning occurs, because it can help stop further spread of disease.
4. Best before date.

Some people prefer to buy eggs directly from local farmers. This may affect the safety of the eggs because they often do not perform antimicrobial tests (or don't wash the eggs for example), which puts them at risk of spreading *Salmonella*. Spreading of the bacteria is prevented in the UK by vaccinating hens, following the rules of the British Lion Code scheme.

Did you know?

In 2015, there were 10.02 billion eggs produced in the UK. An additional 2.1 billion were imported.

Apply

While shopping, check the labels on eggs and make notes about their origin and production method. Which ones are the most popular?

Research

Visit the website <https://www.egginfo.co.uk> and find out differences in the quality of eggs.

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Check your understanding: How far

1. Which of the following statements about organic farming is TRUE? (1 mark)
- a. It allows the use of artificial herbicides. ☐ b. It allows routine use of antibiotics. ☐
c. It allows the use of GM feed. ☐ d. None of the above. ☐

2. Which of the following is TRUE about free-range hens? (1 mark)
- a. They live in cages. ☐ b. They are allowed to roam freely. ☐
c. They live in barns. ☐ d. They only eat organic feed. ☐

3. Which of the following is TRUE? (1 mark)
- a. Locally produced foods decrease emission of greenhouse gases. ☐
b. Locally produced foods are always organic. ☐
c. Seasonal foods are often more nutritious than non-seasonal foods. ☐
d. Seasonal foods are usually less expensive than non-seasonal foods. ☐

4. State two advantages and two disadvantages of organic farming. (4 marks)

Advantage 1

Advantage 2

Disadvantage 1

Disadvantage 2

5. State two benefits of sustainable farming. (2 marks)

1.

2.

6. Evaluate the impact that farming method has on the quality and safety of food. (4 marks)

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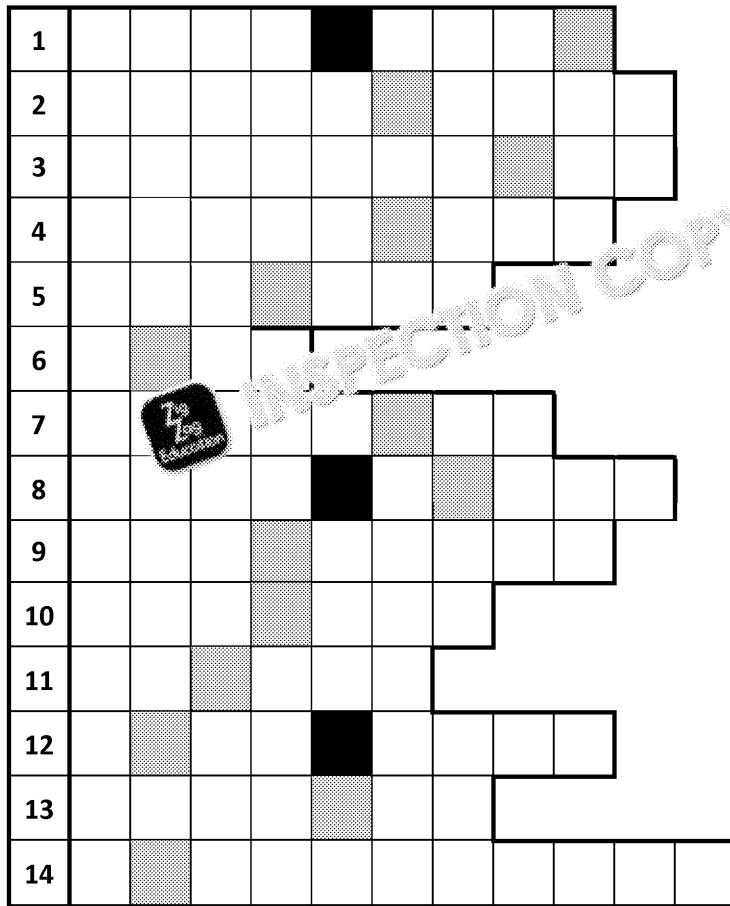
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Chapter 1: Quiz-ine

Fill in the answers to the questions below to reveal a word relevant to food production (the black squares are spaces between words).



1. Greasy pâté made of goose liver (4,4)
2. Growing food in this allows availability all year long (10)
3. Used to improve soil quality (10)
4. All farm animals are referred to as this (9)
5. Ingredients and foods produced without or with very little artificial substances (11)
6. Cereal grain that is most commonly used around the world (4)
7. Characteristic of a given time of year (8)
8. Farmed animals and birds which are allowed to roam outside (4-5)
9. Used to kill weeds (9)
10. The meat of a deer (7)
11. Oily fish caught for its characteristic pink flesh (7)
12. Enclosed area in which oysters and mussels can be reared (4,4)
13. Domesticated birds such as chickens and ducks are referred to as this (7)
14. Growing method in which plant roots are put directly into water (11)

The shaded squares reveal this word:

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Sustainability and security of food

Sustainability of food concerns scientists, governments and ecologists all around the world. Climate change and growing population, may affect food availability in the future. New technologies can come to the rescue, keeping the most pessimistic visions at bay.

Global warming and sustainability of food

Earth's climate changes in cycles – just like seasons. Temperatures on Earth have changed over millions of years, causing the ice to form or melt, depending on the stage of a given cycle. Before the last ice age, we experienced six glacial periods!

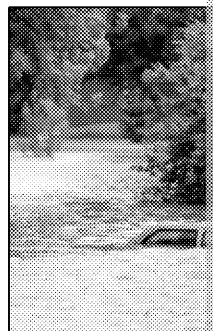
For centuries, climate change was caused by variation in Earth's orbit and in solar activity, which then determined the amount of warmth the planet received from the Sun. The Sun's rays pass through the atmosphere and are then reflected by Earth's surface. In normal conditions, the heat would spread evenly without further consequences. Unfortunately, greenhouse gases (such as carbon dioxide) create a coat around Earth's atmosphere which traps the warmth. Therefore, Earth's surface and the air around it are warming up.

The main reasons for rising carbon dioxide levels are:

- burning coal, oil and wood to obtain energy, and also for food production and transportation between countries
- deforestation to obtain fuel and land for agriculture

Global warming is dangerous. It can lead to:

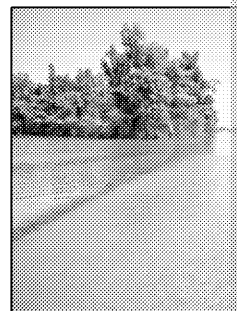
- melting of glaciers and a rise in sea levels
- a rise in global temperatures
- warming of the oceans
- extreme events such as hurricanes, intense rainfall, heatwaves, droughts and
- acidification of the oceans



Droughts and floods are both a result of climate change and have a devastating impact on the environment.



A flooded farm



A farm which is so badly flooded that it's a farm

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Food production and transportation have an enormous impact on the environment. The use of natural resources, many of which are non-renewable. The expanding industrialisation has led to a situation where there will be no resources left for the future generations to produce. The impact of climate change on food security and availability is discussed later on in this Course.

As the world population grows, more and more food has to be produced to meet the demand. Currently (March 2017) there are 7.5 billion people living on Earth, and the United Nations predicts that the world will grow to 11 billion by 2100.

The more people there are, the more food is needed – but the area and resources available to produce food are limited. Food production and transportation require a lot of resources such as water and energy, and they generate a lot of waste and pollution. Intensive farming and overfishing can lead to the depletion of natural resources and to soil exhaustion. For these reasons, the concept of **sustainable food** is becoming increasingly important. The point of sustainable food is to use the available resources only to produce food, without overexploit them and allows them to be replenished.

The main principles of sustainable food are:

- 1. reducing waste of food and packaging
- 2. eating more vegetables and fruit, and less meat and dairy to limit the amount of greenhouse gases produced
- 3. buying locally and seasonally to limit the carbon footprint
- 4. choosing fair trade certified products to promote fair wages and prices
- 5. selecting fish from sustainable resources only
- 6. avoid or limit the consumption of sugar, salt and food additives
- 7. growing food yourself if possible

The idea of sustainability is supported by the European Union, which created a 'Resource Efficient Europe'. The aim of the policy is to reduce waste, improve the efficiency of resources and reduce resource consumption in order to protect the environment.

Research

Discover more about the sustainability of food at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment>

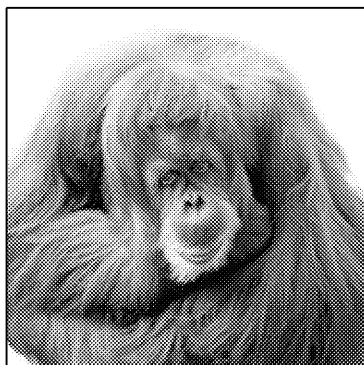
An example of how the policy is implemented is **fish farms**.

Other forms of sustainable agriculture include the use of such methods as nitrogen fixation, crop rotation, composting, soil amendment or soil steaming. They allow the maintenance of high-yield crops as well as the use of natural resources necessary for the proper growth of plants.

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Why is sustainability of resources important?



Food production has contributed to loss of biodiversity and habitats and endangered wildlife such as orangutans and Sumatran tigers.



Did you know?



Sustainability means the ability to keep harvesting or using a product without causing long-term damage or harm to the environment, the animal or to the economy or livelihood of developing countries.



A

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Sustainability issues have surrounded the following food products:

FISH	PALM OIL	
		
<p>Some fish stocks have become endangered through overfishing or habitat loss. Sustainable fish is fish that is caught or farmed in a way that causes minimal damage to marine environments or other wildlife.</p> <p>The Marine Conservation Society and Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall campaigned for Marine Conservation Zones (also known as Marine Protected Areas) to help protect the world's most fragile marine environments from overfishing or damage.</p> <p>Research: Take a look at zzed.uk/8258-defra-marine to see a map of Marine Protected Areas.</p>	<p>Palm oil is grown in South East Asia and is found in many products, such as food, shampoo, biofuel and cosmetics. Palm oil plantations have resulted in mass deforestation of tropical forests leading to loss of biodiversity and wildlife, including the orangutan (over 80% according to the Orangutan Project).</p> <p>Some supermarkets state that they source palm oil from plantations which can demonstrate that they have not endangered tropical rainforests – this is referred to as <i>sustainable palm oil</i>.</p> <p>Research: Take a look at the Orangutan Project at zzed.uk/8258-orangutan-palm-oil</p>	<p>Mar ord in B the Am wild Only soyl hum feed only soyl com can mea</p>

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Case study – sustainable fishing

Fish is a source of complete proteins, omega-3 fatty acids and vitamins A and D. Fish should, therefore, be a part of a healthy diet. Unfortunately, the growing need for them and illegal fishing have led to a situation where 90% of natural fisheries are overexploited. This is not only because a large number of fish have been caught, but also because destructive catching methods were being used. For example, bottom trawling includes dragging the fishing net along the sea floor, which disrupts the ecosystem. Another method is pair trawling, in which a fishing net is stretched between two boats. This leads to a by-catch, which means catching unwanted fish, seaweed and other sea creatures. Also, the size of fishing nets plays a role, as using openings which are too small will lead to the catching of very small fish, which won't be used for food and also won't be able to grow and rebuild the population.

For this reason, the Common Fisheries Policy was implemented. It states the way (especially in wild fisheries) to maintain a sustainable rate – this is important to avoid extinction and allow them to regenerate the population.

Sustainable fish farms should implement two general rules: ensure the health of the fish and adjust the catching method. Fish farms help to protect wild fish and other species in the oceans, while producing enough food to feed the growing population.

Fish farms allow producers to rear fish and seafood for meat, caviar, pearls, and other products.

Fish can also be sustainably obtained from wild fisheries (those naturally occurring in the wild).

There are various methods of fishing – some of them more destructive than others.

- **purse seining** means fishing with the use of a large net in which fish and other sea creatures are caught; this often leads to by-catch
- **longlining** means fishing with the use of a long line to which other lines are attached with a hook; this is not a sustainable method of fishing as it often attracts unwanted sea animals (e.g. turtles) leading to a significant by-catch
- **bottom trawling** means pulling a large net along the seabed, used to catch shellfish; this can damage the fish habitats and permanently affect the fish population
- **harpooning** in which harpoons are thrown at individual fish; this is a sustainable fishing method since only the intended fish are caught (no by-catch)
- **floating traps** in which traps and weirs are suspended in water, attracting individual fish; the fish are then trapped inside a box, but are not harmed. Once the box is removed from the water, the catch is removed and may be released back to the sea. This is a sustainable method of catching the intended fish or shellfish

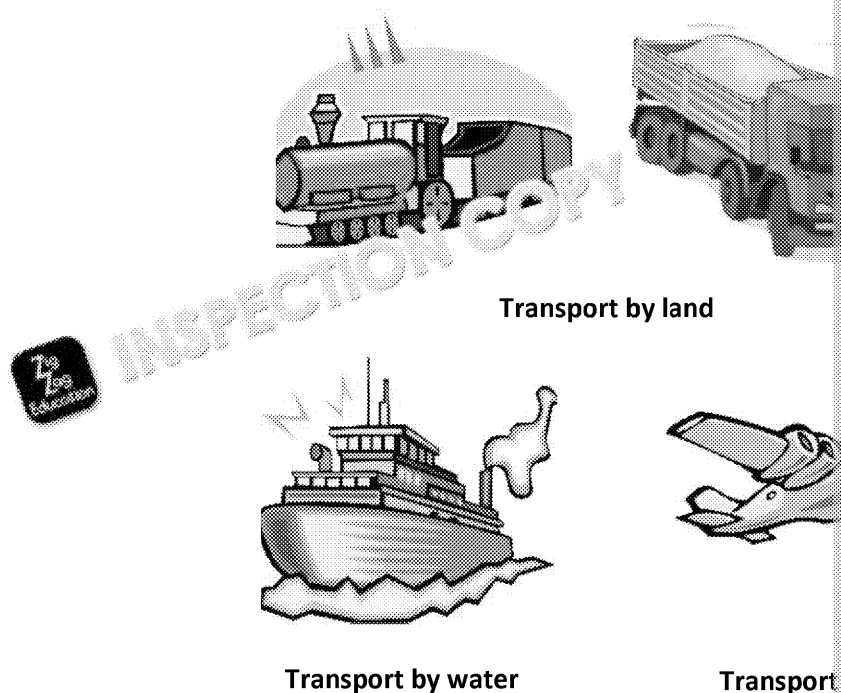
By-catch is the unwanted catch of other species of fish.

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Carbon footprint and the food miles

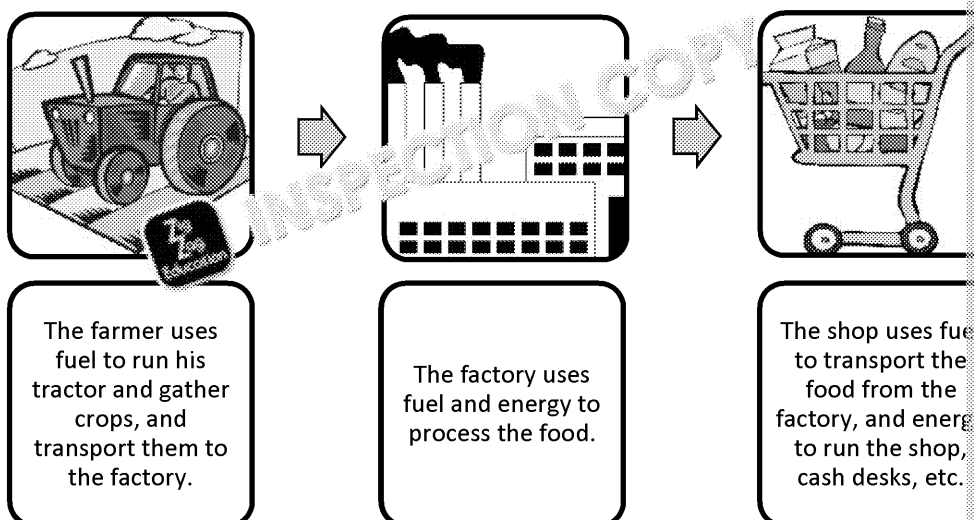
Food can be transported even from very distant countries by trains, lorries, ships. These means of transport need a lot of energy – from either carbon, petrol or wood. Combustion produces dust, exhaust gases and carbon dioxide. They contribute to general air pollution of the air and ground (especially near main roads and motorways).



Foods and other goods are transported by different means. Which do you think produces the most carbon footprint?

An important effect of rising global transportation (and consumption of fuels) is global climate change. This is because large amounts of greenhouse gases are produced during the transport of foods. Greenhouse gases include water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. They are produced in large amounts by households (e.g. when heating the house and using gas) and by people (e.g. buses and cars). All the greenhouse gases produced as a result of something are part of its **carbon footprint**.

Buying locally reduces the need for transportation of produce, and, therefore, is a good way to reduce your carbon footprint. It also reduces **food miles** – the distance which food has to travel.



Food miles and carbon footprint are built up all the way from the field to the shop.

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Reducing the amount of greenhouse gases produced during production and transport for saving the Earth. It can be achieved by:

- using alternative sources of energy such as wind or solar panels to run factories
- using more effective ways of transportation and improving exhaust filters in cars
- choosing local foods to reduce the need for transportation at all
- planting more trees and stopping deforestation

Research

Visit the website <http://footprint.wwf.org.uk/tips> and discuss how YOU can reduce your footprint.



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Packaging and the environment

Packaging as we know it became very popular after World War II – before that people used paper containers to carry all kinds of food. Plastic bags gained popularity in the 1950s for their strength and convenience.

Food can be packed in various types of container: bags, sacks, boxes, bottles... Food can be packed in:

- paper and/or cardboard
- plastic
- glass
- steel
- aluminium (tins and cans)
- wood (baskets and crates)

The materials can also be combined, for example, to insulate cardboard boxes so that the food inside stays fresh.

They are specifically designed to:

- protect food from external factors (such as light, oxygen, dirt or microorganisms)
- inform the consumer about the product (information)
- attract consumers to the product and tempt them to buy it (marketing)
- increase the shelf life of a given product (preservation)

How does packaging affect the environment?

Packaging has a big impact on the environment – from the moment it is produced to the time it is discarded or destroyed.

- Production of packaging – no matter what material is used – entails the use of water, electricity, detergents, labour and other resources.
- Then, the packages have to be transported to the factory, where the food is packed – that contributes to the carbon footprint.
- After the food is eaten, packages are discarded – ideally, into recycling containers. Unrecycled packaging creates pollution of air, earth and water.
- Landfills cause pollution, and require a lot of space and money to be run efficiently.
- Packaging which is not disposed of correctly can be swallowed by fish, birds etc., leading to their death.



Landfill

British people buy 22 million metric tonnes of food every year – and all that food packaging has to be disposed of properly, so it can be recycled or destroyed in an environmentally friendly way. This is because materials such as glass or plastic which are not recycled will take a very long time (see table on p. 29). For this reason, the government and environmental organisations strive to limit the number of plastic bags used (introducing the 5p charge in 2015 halved the number!)¹

Did you know?

In 2013, British consumers took home 7.4 billion plastic bags from supermarkets.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plastic-bag-numbers-rise-for-third-year>

¹ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34346309>

Material	Time taken to decompose
Paper	2 weeks
Food	1-6 weeks
Milk cartons	6-12 weeks
Cigarette butts	10 weeks
Batteries	100 years
Aluminium cans	80 years
Nappies	250 years
Plastic bottles	450 years
Plastic bags	10-15 years
Glass	Millions of years
Styrofoam	100 years

Recycling

Recycling is a way of getting rid of waste in an eco-friendly way. To facilitate this, colour-coded bins were introduced in the United Kingdom to help people identify what litter goes where. Note that different countries (and even different city councils) can have different policies – some use more colours, some only sort waste into ‘dry’ and ‘wet’, etc.

Research

Visit the website <https://www.recyclenow.com> and create a poster in which you explain what you can recycle and how you can recycle in your area.

Typical colour of the bin	What goes into it	What happens to it
Blue	Paper, aluminium tins, metal cans, glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles, plastic food trays and yoghurt pots	The materials are recycled into new packages, etc.
Brown	Food waste, vegetable peel, egg shells, teabags, garden waste (cut grass, flowers, etc.)	This is decomposed into compost for example.
Green or grey	Plastic bags, polystyrene, light bulbs, mirrors, sanitary products, nappies	These are not recycled and have to be disposed of (e.g. burnt) or landfilled.

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² <https://www.thebalance.com/how-long-does-it-take-garbage-to-decompose-2878033>

³ <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/household-waste-and-recycling/what-goes-in-your-bins>

Food waste

Food waste is, in general terms, all the food that is rotten, spoiled or wasted, and is thrown away. It can be created by food producers, retailers and households. Food waste is one of the major problems of rich, developed countries. In 2012, in the United Kingdom alone, the amount of food waste produced by households was about seven megatons, and by manufacturers – 3.9 megatons.⁴

Here are five reasons why food waste is wrong:

1. **Wasting food is unethical.** We live in a world of large social inequalities, where over one third of the population is obese, while another billion people suffer from famine.^{5,6}
2. **Wasting food is environmentally unfriendly.** Many resources – water, electricity – are used to produce and transport it. Not only are they used, but, in the meantime, a lot of resources are also wasted.
3. **Wasting food is uneconomical.** Many people were involved in the process of producing the food. The World Resources Action Programme estimates that each family in the UK is wasting food worth £100 million a year.⁷
4. **Wasting food requires organisation.** After all, someone has to pick up the rubbish from your home and either recycle it or store it at a rubbish dump. That, again, contributes to the carbon footprint and increases the social cost of food waste.
5. **Wasting food creates pollution.** The food had to be produced (carbon dioxide), transported (greenhouse gases), packed (plastic) and cooked (carbon dioxide again). All the by-products of food production and consumption find their way into the environment and contribute to the overall pollution of the planet.

Did you know?

The top five wasted food items in the UK are:

- bread
- potatoes
- apples
- meat and fish meals
- vegetable meals

A number of policies were designed to help prevent food waste:

- **Recycling** – of both food and food packaging. The leftover food can be used in many ways, e.g. as animal feed.
- **First in, first out** – rotation of stock helps prevent food waste by controlling 'use by' dates.
- **Storing the food in proper conditions** – helps prevent food spoilage by either pests or environmental factors.
- **Redistribution** – giving away anything that cannot be sold. Some of the large charities have programmes which help distribute the food to those who are in need.

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⁴ <http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/UK%20Estimates%20October%2015%20%28FINAL%29.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs311/en/>

⁶ <https://www.thelifeyoucansave.org/Causes/Hunger-and-Nutrition?gclid=CPPwk4nIvNACFUNmGw>

⁷ <https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/>

Food waste in food production

There are several reasons why food may be wasted before it even gets to a shop:

- **Crop failure** – poor weather conditions, drought, flood, vermin, pests – all these factors can cause a lot of food to go to waste before it is even harvested.
- **Overproduction** – sometimes good weather conditions support growth of fruit and vegetables so efficiently that too much is produced and, as a result, farmers can't sell the overabundance; in these cases food is often left in the field to rot.
- **Throwing away** – producers may choose to throw away 'ugly', misshapen fruit or vegetables; this is because, in many cases, the produce has to fulfil international standards, as otherwise it can't be sold in shops.
- **Faulty methods** – faulty methods of production, e.g. in factories, may lead to the waste of many foods.



These

Limiting food waste at these stages might not be easy, as it may require legal changes and a couple of ways which can help to limit the wastage.

- Farmers may choose to use pesticides or herbicides, or to grow foods in polytunnels to protect them from pests, vermin or weather conditions.
- Farmers can choose GM crops which are resistant to weather conditions.
- Farmers can try to sell the food more cheaply for freezing or canning.
- Factories can adjust their processing methods to minimise wastage.
- Factories can sell the food waste to produce natural fertilisers or animal feed.
- At all stages of production – when transporting, cleaning, sorting, cooking, packaging – producers can maintain proper conditions to prevent spoilage caused by microorganisms.
- Factories can use packaging to protect food from external factors – modern packaging methods, such as modified atmosphere packaging or vacuum packaging, can help to extend the shelf life of food while not affecting nutritional value.
- Producers can use preservatives – although this might be socially unacceptable, it is a proven method of extending the shelf life of food products.

Food waste in retailers

Smaller and larger shops struggle with large amounts of food which are not sold. This might be due to:

- not paying attention to date marks
- not storing the food in the correct conditions
- improper management and over-ordering

Shop managers may need to implement a couple of strategies to reduce food waste, such as:

- Daily check of date marks, especially of fresh produce – a food past its date mark cannot be sold.
- If a food is past its 'best before' date, it is usually still edible, so can be donated to food banks or even given for free to the shop workers and customers.
- Control storage conditions, both in the storeroom and in the sales hall – this applies especially to temperature and sunlight, as many foods will be packaged at this stage so will be protected from other external factors.
- Lower the price for foods which are close to their 'use by' date as they won't be safe to eat beyond that date.

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What can you do to stop wasting food?

Food waste in homes is usually caused by buying too much, cooking too much, not paying attention to date marks or improper storage conditions. Food may also be wasted due to lack of skills or knowledge; for example, when a person buys a new product and doesn't know what to cook with it or when a person can't cook and burns the meal.

Reducing food waste at home can include:

- Planning your meals and writing a shopping list – buy only the foods you need, in the amount you need. This applies especially to fresh foods, which cannot be stored for a long time.
- Using leftovers – you can use cooked vegetables to prepare a salad (or a cream soup), leftover mashed potato can be used to prepare fish cakes, and stale bread is great for a pudding or simply for breadcrumbs).
- Freezing foods that you cannot eat right away – this applies especially to meat and fish, and to soups and meals. Vegetables have to be blanched or pre-cooked before freezing.
- Serving as much as you need. If there is too little, you can always ask for an extra helping.

If your food unfortunately gets spoiled or goes rotten, don't worry – store it in a compost (or give it to someone who owns a garden).

Research

Visit the website <https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com> and try to list five ways you may contribute towards lowering food waste.

Apply

Think of ways to reduce food waste, such as potatoes.



Things to think about

Discuss how food waste, transportation and packaging contribute to food waste.



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Impact on global markets and communities

Your food choices affect not only you and your family, but also people in other countries. Often the food we buy is often imported; for example, oranges are imported from Spain and rice from Thailand. As you pay for your shopping, the money is divided between the drivers who transported it from the factory, food factory workers and farm workers. The larger the price – so even if production of rice is very cheap, the price paid at the shop is high – the wages paid to the farmers are often very low and encourage human exploitation.

Although slavery was banned in 1833, modern societies tend to overexploit their resources – including labour – in order to produce more goods and create a bigger profit. In many countries, children are forced to work, and people are not paid fairly for their work – which leads to high poverty rates in some countries as China, Indonesia and India.⁸

Fairtrade is a global movement which helps to stop modern slavery. It has the following benefits:

- fair prices and wages for producers, farmers and farm workers – buying Fairtrade products is one way of improving their lives
- decent working conditions (such as working hours, breaks and tools)
- ends child labour and forced labour
- empowers local farmers, their families and communities – having more money allows them to make choices about their lives and send their children to school
- enables local growth and sustainability (e.g. schools and health centres can be built with money to pay for the medical care, etc.)

Fairtrade rules are designed to enhance the social, economic and environmental conditions of producers – not large intercontinental corporations.

The most popular Fairtrade products include:⁹

- bananas
- chocolate/cocoa beans
- coffee beans and tea leaves
- cotton
- sugar

Did you know?

The United Kingdom is the largest Fairtrade market in the world!

Apply

While shopping, try to find five products that come from Fairtrade producers.



Research

Research and prepare a presentation about Fairtrade standards are...

Fairtrade is also linked to sustainability of food. As the farmers and farm workers are able to produce healthy food for their families. The farm owners can also use technologies to increase the amount of food produced. Fairtrade farmers are also using environmentally friendly practices in order to use resources wisely and mitigate the impact of climate change.

Research

Watch the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gG3fd1Jg7Jk> and discuss how it supports sustainability of food.

⁸ <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/overview>

⁹ <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/buying-fairtrade>



Check your understanding: Sustain

1. Which of the following does NOT contribute to an increase in carbon footprint? (1 mark)
- a. using oil as fuel ☐
 - b. using carbon as fuel ☐
 - c. using wood as fuel ☐
 - d. using solar panels ☐

2. Which of the following statements is TRUE about food waste? (1 mark)
- a. The most food waste is produced by households. ☐
 - b. The most food waste is produced by restaurants. ☐
 - c. The most food waste is produced in food factories. ☐
 - d. The most food waste is produced by farmers. ☐

3. Describe what is meant by carbon footprint. (2 marks)



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4. Suggest two ways in which food waste can be prevented at the stage of production.

1.

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2.

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5. Assess how fish farms help to ensure sustainability of resources. (4 marks)

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Food security

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), at any given time and place, any person should have access to sufficient amounts of safe food. The growth of the human population means that more and more food has to be produced.

What makes food available?

- Sufficient production – means that enough food is made; intensive farming (such as GM) have made it possible, but unfortunately almost all that food stays in the country of origin.
- Access to retailers – means that shops or farmers are close enough for people to get food from them
- **Affordability** – means that a person has enough money to buy the food they need.

What threatens food availability?

- Climate change and the effect of global warming
- Droughts, which make growing plants impossible
- Floods, which destroy the crops
- Pollution caused by production and transportation of goods
- Insufficient land for growing food – there are more and more people to feed
- Lack of resources, such as water or fossil fuels
- Overexploitation of soil, which decreases its usefulness for growing plants
- Poverty and lack of money

In developed countries, such as the UK, there are also other factors, such as the price of the food, and lack of transportation to bring the food back home.

What does 'nutritious food' mean?

Food should not only fill you up and stop you feeling hungry – it is also a source of important macro- and microelements, which are crucial for the proper growth, development and functioning of the body. The food should, therefore, be rich in nutrients such as proteins, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals. The abundance of cheap, low-quality food in developed countries has led to the situation where 1.9 billion people worldwide are overweight or obese,¹¹ and at the same time 30% of them are undernourished.¹²

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¹⁰ http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/sustainability/Presentations/Availability.pdf

¹¹ <http://hungerreport.org/2016/infographics-2/>

¹² <http://drhyman.com/blog/2012/02/29/how-malnutrition-causes-obesity/>

Food poverty

Food poverty means that a person or a family doesn't have enough money to buy sufficient amounts of quality (healthy and nutritious) food. In many areas, especially in developing countries, this is the cause of famine, diseases and deaths. UNICEF states that half of the deaths among children under five are caused by undernutrition.¹³ Food poverty is not restricted to poor countries only. Even rich, developed countries such as the United Kingdom struggle with the problem. According to OXFAM, 2 million British citizens are malnourished, while another 500,000 rely on food parcels from charities to feed their families.¹⁴

Effects of food poverty

Food poverty usually results in malnutrition – a condition in which the balance of a person doesn't have enough nutrients or has too much of some of them. Lack of food leads to various health issues, such as:

- hunger and/or a variable loss of body mass
- loss of muscle tissue, weakness
- lack of immunity
- vitamin and mineral deficiencies
- protein deficiency, often leading to kwashiorkor
- inability to focus and learn
- poor bone and dental health
- increased risk of heart disease, obesity and type 2 diabetes, as low-quality food is often consumed
- stress and social exclusion
- depression

...and many others. It is estimated that around half a million British citizens use food banks due to a lack of ability to put food on their table.

What can be done to make food available?

- Many international organisations, such as the Red Cross, deliver free food to war zones
- Increase salaries – although this is not easy to do, since it depends on many factors
- Decrease prices and make food more affordable for people, especially those in low-income areas, done by supporting local farmers
- Food vouchers – which are a way of helping people financially without giving them cash, as cash can be misused, because it can be spent on food only, and not on other necessities
- Create food banks – places where food can be given for free to those in need
- Avoid food waste – and give what you don't eat to those who might need it
- Use modern technologies, such as GM crops, to increase more efficient agriculture
- Improve storage conditions to enhance the shelf-life, e.g. by the use of modified atmosphere packaging or vacuum packaging.

Research

Read the report on

<http://www.manchesterfoodpoverty.co.uk/sites/default/files/Facts%20and%20Figures%20Report.pdf> and list the reasons and outcomes of food poverty in Greater Manchester.

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¹³ <http://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/malnutrition/>

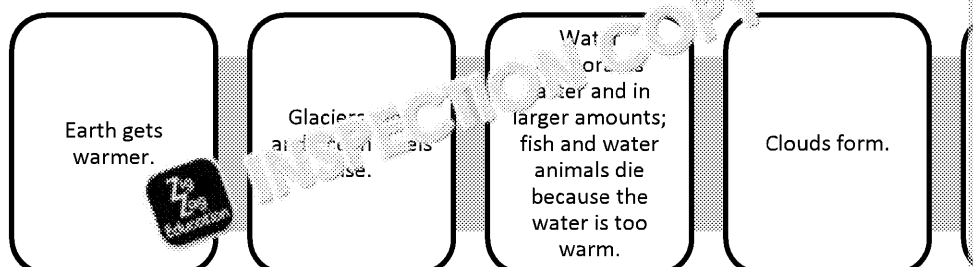
¹⁴ http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/our-work/inequality/food-poverty#contentprimary_0_ctl00_1

How climate change affects food security

The effects of global warming that have been observed over the past 50 years are:

- They cause the mass extinction of many animal and plant species, as many of the new conditions (such as high temperatures or lack of water).
- They lead to the disappearance of land and whole countries under water, significant land which can be used for planting crops or grazing farm animals.
- They can cause food shortages and famine by causing crop failure (due to both drought and flooding).
- They change the pattern of the seasons, which can affect plants' life cycles and the availability of food.

How does this work?



How can we ensure food availability when facing climate change?

Climate change is a global problem. It affects individuals, communities and whole countries. Around the world are involved in the fight against carbon dioxide emissions. An example is the Paris Agreement, which obligates 197 countries to undertake certain actions to help reduce global warming. Actions have to be taken to:

- mitigate (stabilise and reduce) levels of CO₂ released into the atmosphere, e.g. by switching from fossil fuels to water or solar power, limiting transportation and using more public transport, limiting the use of packaging, lowering food waste, recycling and reusing goods.
- adapt to the changes that have already happened – this involves making the most of the experience, such as a prolonged summer which allows more crops to grow; the use of modern technologies to produce genetically modified foods, which are resistant to pests and diseases; and the use of modern storage and packaging methods to extend the shelf life of food.

Research

Visit the website <http://climate.nasa.gov> and list things you and your family can do to reduce your emission of greenhouse gases and lower your contribution towards climate change.

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Additional reading: Genetically modified foods and food security

All food comes from living organisms – plants, fungi or animals – and, therefore, each has a unique DNA code. DNA contains genes, which determine all the features of a given organism, such as its colour and nutritional value. Modification of DNA – replacing one or more of the genes – has led to the development of various plant and animal species that grow larger, are resistant to pests, and have more muscle tissue.

Why we use GM

- to increase crops and avoid food shortages
- to improve 'shelf life' in foods and lengthen storage time
- to produce biofuel
- to develop resistance to pests in plants
- to decrease the amount of herbicides and pesticides needed
- to increase the amount of eggs, milk and meat produced
- to increase immunity in animals
- to increase the amount of vitamins and other nutrients in food
- to overcome climate challenges
- to prevent malnutrition and fight off hunger
- to improve flavour, colour, appearance or size of fruit and vegetables

The experiments to design and produce GM foods started in the 1980s and, there is still debate (yet) whether they are safe and healthy to consume, because that requires long-term studies (a long time, e.g. 50 years). European Union law allows for GM crops of cotton, maize, soybean and sugar beet.

Did you know?

The so-called 'Golden Rice' was developed to prevent widespread vitamin A deficiency in developing countries. However, it wasn't very successful at the beginning because people didn't like the unnatural-looking yellow rice!

Many people oppose GM foods because:

- there is no scientific proof that long-term use of GM food is healthy and safe
- they believe GM food increases the risk of allergies and cancer
- they may contribute to increased body mass and so to the recent growth in obesity around the world
- they may lead to antibiotic resistance
- GM seeds mix with naturally occurring plants and may cause their extinction (or reduce their numbers)
- genetic modifications often require the use of viruses or bacteria, such as *E. coli*, which can create and spread of new diseases

On the other hand, genetically modified foods have multiple advantages, and scientists are working hard to ensure the newly created species are not only environmentally friendly but also

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