

G633: Ecology and Managing the Environment – Sample Assignment A

Unit Name: Ecology and Managing the Environment	Unit Number: G633
Assignment Title: Effects of change on Ecosystems	Assignment: G633 Sample Assignment A
Date Set:	Due Date:
Assessment Objective(s): AO1(b) & AO2(b)	

Vocational Brief:

Humans depend on plants and animals to live. It is essential to be aware of the value of biodiversity and of the factors that lead to ecological change which in some cases cause avoidable loss.

Task 1: – AO1(b)

Write a report that identifies the effects that agricultural practice, human habitation and greenhouse gas production has on ecosystems and biodiversity.

In the report, include the following and their effect on ecosystems and biodiversity:

- monoculture and hedgerow removal
- the use of inorganic nitrate and phosphate fertilisers and resulting eutrophication
- bioaccumulation of insecticides e.g. DDT
- the toxicity of fungicides or herbicides e.g. dioxin impurities in 2,4 – D
- urban and rural land use issues
- land drainage schemes
- management of waste
- natural processes that lead to the build up of greenhouse gases
- domestic production of greenhouse gases
- agricultural and industrial emissions of greenhouse gases.

[Max marks possible for this task: 5]

Task 2:

– AO2(b)

The aim of this task is to research the methods used to manage ecosystems and preserve species diversity and discuss one particular ecological management project.

When you have gathered together your research, construct a presentation explaining clearly what you have found out.

Your presentation should:

- include a description of the different methods/approaches available to manage ecosystems and preserve species diversity
- a description of the specific ecosystem that the management project you have researched is based upon
- interpret, explain and evaluate a range of data relating to the success of the management project.

[Max marks possible for this task: 5]