

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COLLEGE - LINGUA

Towards Educational Excellence

NCFE Reg. No: R0014

NQA Accreditation No: 000224



ASSIGNMENT COVER PAGE

ALL PARTICULARS REQUIRED MUST BE FURNISHED BY THE STUDENT

Student Name, Surname & Postal Address	Student Number	
	Course	
	Subject	
	Mode of Study (FT/PT/DIS)	
	Assignment Number	
	Year of Study (1st, 2nd or 3rd year)	
STATEMENT BY STUDENT <ul style="list-style-type: none">I declare that this is my own, original work prepared specifically for this course and that all the sources I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references. <p><i>Student's Signature</i> : _____</p> <p><i>Date</i> : _____</p>	Total No of pages	
	Lecturer's Name	
	Student Contact Number	
	Assignment Due Date	
	Date Assignment Received by Admin	

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Lecturer's Signature: _____

Date Marked: _____

Marks Awarded

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LECTURER'S COMMENTS:

Water – A Precious Resource

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

1. Water is becoming more and scarcer in South Africa. Experts predict that our resources could be exhausted soon and we will not have sufficient water for our day-to-day needs. Exactly when this catastrophe will happen, cannot be predicted. One fact is however abundantly clear: water is becoming a really scarce resource. The question we need to ask is – what we can do about this looming water crisis in our country in order to conserve water?
2. When there is a scarcity of water, the price increases dramatically. In certain areas of South Africa, the scarcity of water often becomes so serious that harsh water restrictions are imposed to force people not to waste this precious resource. During the recent drought in Cape Town, there were water police who patrolled the streets to ensure that people did not illegally water their gardens or wash their cars. This may become a countrywide reality in the future. Authorities stress that the public has been making an effort to use less water, but scientists agree that if we would like our water resources to last as long as possible, we are going to have to change our lifestyle drastically.
3. South Africa's average rainfall is less than 500 mm per year. Throughout the rest of the world, the annual rainfall is double that. Now one begins to understand that even when it rains the way it should, there is still not enough for everybody. To take this one step further, what happens when we have a drought? The driest areas in the western part of the country get less than 200 mm of rain while the rest of the country gets up to 2 000 mm. Rain does not always fall where it is needed and some areas do not get enough water for their needs. Most of the rainwater falls along the coasts – the rest of the country gets only a third of the entire country's rainfall. Many areas in the west of the country are warm and dry and water evaporates very quickly, thus compounding the problem.
4. There are a number of threats to our water resources. The most important of this is pollution. This results in a scarcity of quality water. Man is guilty of many activities that make our available water unusable. As urbanization takes place, more people flock to towns and cities to find employment in factories and mines. As might be expected, this development leads to more pollution as new houses and factories are built. This in turn has an enormous impact on the quality of the water above and below the ground. People dispose of harmful poisonous liquids such as oil and strong detergents by pouring them down their drains.
5. Pollution is not so obvious, but just as dangerous, on farms. Fertilizers used on farmland often end up in rivers and dams. Here they stimulate growth in and around the water. When plant material dies, it rots, increasing the number of bacteria in the water. These bacteria draw on the oxygen in the water, oxygen levels drop and fish begin to die. Water can also be badly polluted by weed killers and other chemicals sprayed on crops.

6. Many people in South Africa live in informal settlements near streams and other water sources. Because many of these communities do not have access to formal water supplies like taps, they use streams and rivers for bathing and washing clothes. In many areas people also throw rubbish into rivers, thus polluting them. All of these activities lead to contamination of the water and diseases like cholera and hepatitis.
7. We would all like to leave our beautiful country and its resources to the coming generations. So let us embark collectively on a deliberate campaign to save this limited, but precious resource.

[Adapted from Magazine 24 March 2005]

1. Choose the correct answer from the following alternatives. Write down only the letter of your choice:

The theme of the passage can best be summed up as:

- A. We do not get enough rain in South Africa to meet our day-to-day needs.
B. Water needs to be carefully managed by every South African to prevent pollution.
C. Every person in South Africa should be made aware that we need to save water.
D. We need to take care of how we use water, or soon there will not be enough for everyone. **(2)**
2. How, according to the writer of this passage, do water shortages affect household budgets? **(4)**
3. Name forbidden activities that the water police had to prevent during the water restrictions in Cape Town. **(2)**
4. Why is water called a “precious” resource? **(2)**
5. State whether the following statements are **TRUE** or **FALSE**.
Motivate your answer by quoting from the passage in each case
- 5.1. People will have to alter their daily routine radically to save water. **(2)**
- 5.2. The eastern part of South Africa gets the most rain. **(3)**
- 6 Refer to paragraph 4. The writer says, “This in turn has an enormous impact on the quality of the water above and below the ground.”
What does ‘This’ refer to? **(2)**
- 7 In paragraph 3, the author writes, “ ... thus compounding the problem.”
- 7.1 Which ‘problem’ is being referred to here? **(2)**
- 7.2. What does the author mean by the word ‘compounding’? **(2)**
8. The writer accuses people who live in cities of being partly responsible for polluting underground water. List **Two** examples of substances mentioned in this regard. **(2)**
- 1.9. In your own words, explain what the writer means by “urbanization”. **(2)**

- 10.
- 10.1 According to the passage, what happens to water when bacterial levels rise? (2)
- 10.2. What, according to the passage, is the result of the process mentioned in 1.10.1? (2)
11. Name ways in which informal communities pollute water. (2)
12. Name ways in which informal communities pollute water.
Mention infections spread by polluted water. (2)
- 1.13. State whether the following statement is a **FACT** or an **OPINION**.
Give a reason for your answer. (2)
Urban communities pollute our water more than rural communities do. (2)
- 1.14. Find words in the passage which have the same meaning as:
- 1.14.1 used up (paragraph 1) (1)
- 1.14.2. disaster (paragraph 1) (1)
- 1.14.3. shortage (paragraph 4) (1)

END