8.2 Impacts of Water Insecurity and Conflict Over Shared Rivers: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8035 · Calculators not allowed · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Show all your working.

1 Define 'water insecurity' in the context of a river basin supplying people and agriculture.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 State one health consequence of water insecurity in urban areas such as informal settlements near a river.

(Total for Question 2 is 1 mark)

3 Give THREE social consequences of water insecurity for women and girls in a rural river-basin community.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

4 Explain FIVE reasons why disputes over shared rivers like the Nile can escalate into interstate tension or conflict.

(Total for Question 4 is 5 marks)

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Mark scheme · 8.2 Impacts of Water Insecurity and Conflict Over Shared Rivers: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

lack of reliable, sufficient or safe access to water for people and for agriculture within a basin, oe **B1**

Answer: Lack of reliable, sufficient or safe access to water for people and for agriculture within a river basin.

Question 2

waterborne disease outbreak, e.g. cholera or diarrhoeal illness **B1**

Answer: An outbreak of waterborne disease, for example cholera or diarrhoeal illness.

Question 3

increased time spent collecting water, reducing time for education or paid work **B1**

greater exposure to safety risks when travelling to distant water sources, oe **B1**

reduced dignity and privacy where sanitation and water for hygiene are lacking, oe **B1**

Answer: Increased time spent collecting water, reducing time for education or paid work; greater exposure to safety risks when travelling to distant water sources; and reduced dignity and privacy where sanitation and water for hygiene are lacking.

Question 4

resource scarcity creates strong national interest, e.g. water is essential for drinking and irrigation, increasing stakes and willingness to act, oe **B1**

asymmetric power and dependency, e.g. downstream countries may be much more dependent on the river so feel existentially threatened by upstream development, oe **B1**

lack of effective legal agreements or mistrust, e.g. absence of a binding treaty on water sharing increases uncertainty and competition, oe **B1**

political leaders may use water disputes to gain domestic support or distract from internal problems, raising rhetoric and tension, oe **B1**

inability to resolve technical issues like filling schedules and drought management can lead to repeated crises and brinkmanship, oe **B1**

Answer: Disputes escalate because water scarcity raises the national stakes and willingness to act; asymmetric dependency makes downstream states feel existentially threatened by upstream projects; the absence of binding agreements and mistrust increases uncertainty and competition; political leaders may use the dispute to gain domestic support, raising rhetoric; and inability to agree on technical issues like filling schedules can lead to repeated crises and brinkmanship.

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