General Certificate of Education
June 2006
Advanced Subsidiary Examination

GEOGRAPHY (SPECIFICATION A) **GGA3**
Unit 3 Geographical Skills

Resource Booklet

Figure 1

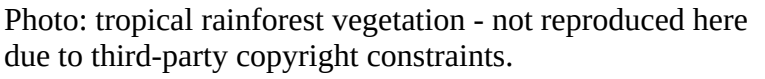


Photo: tropical rainforest vegetation - not reproduced here
due to third-party copyright constraints.

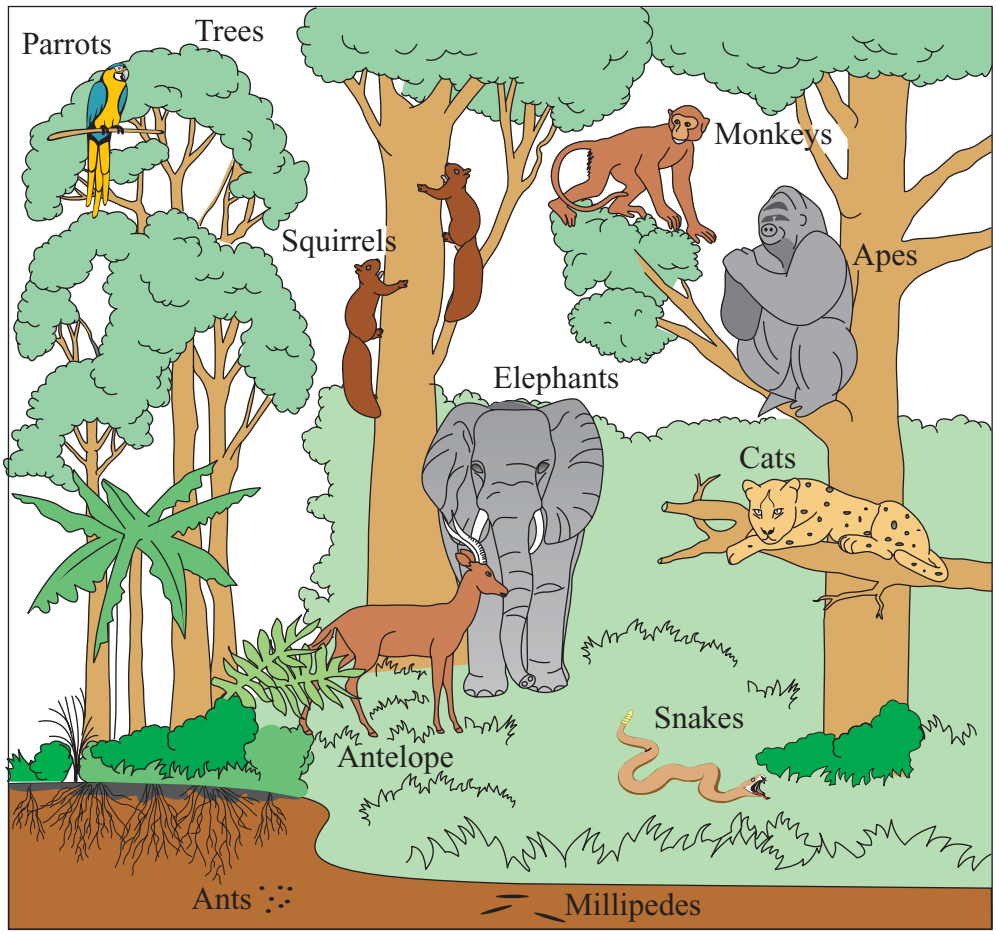
Figure 4a

Source: Rhett A. Butler/mongabay.com

Figure 4b

Photo: Drip tip - not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

Figure 5



Source: Oxford Designers & Illustrators

Figure 6

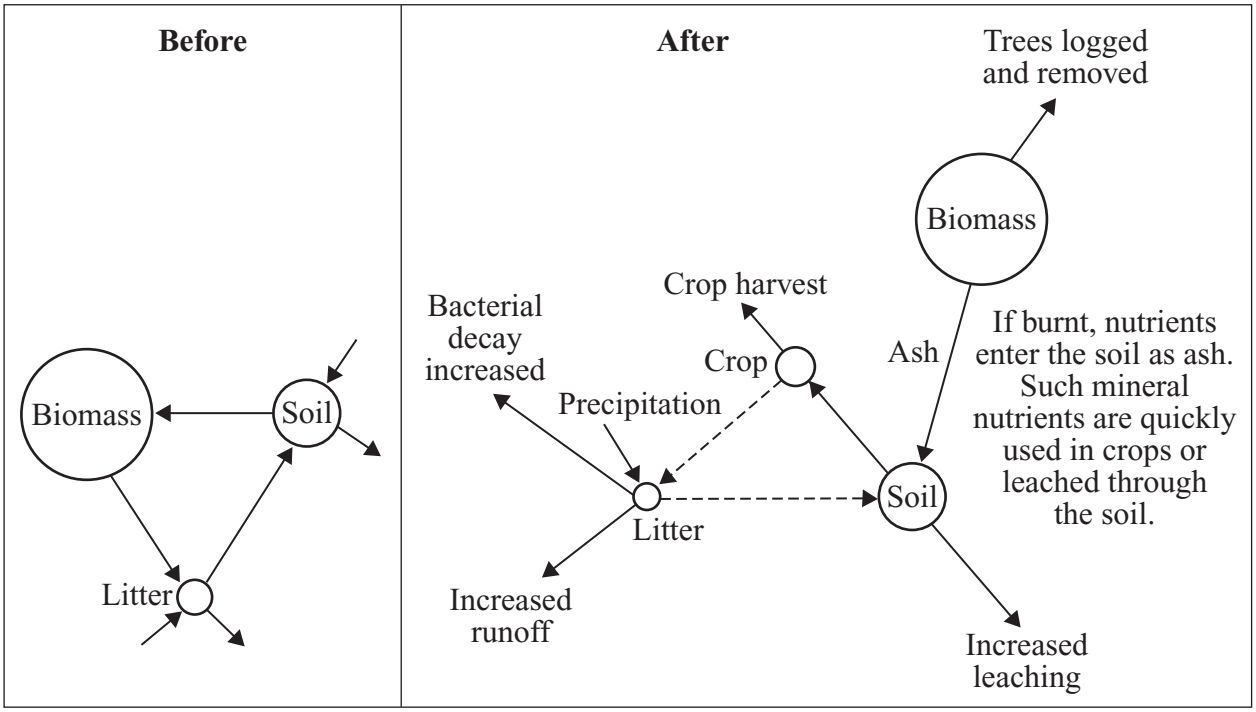


Figure 7

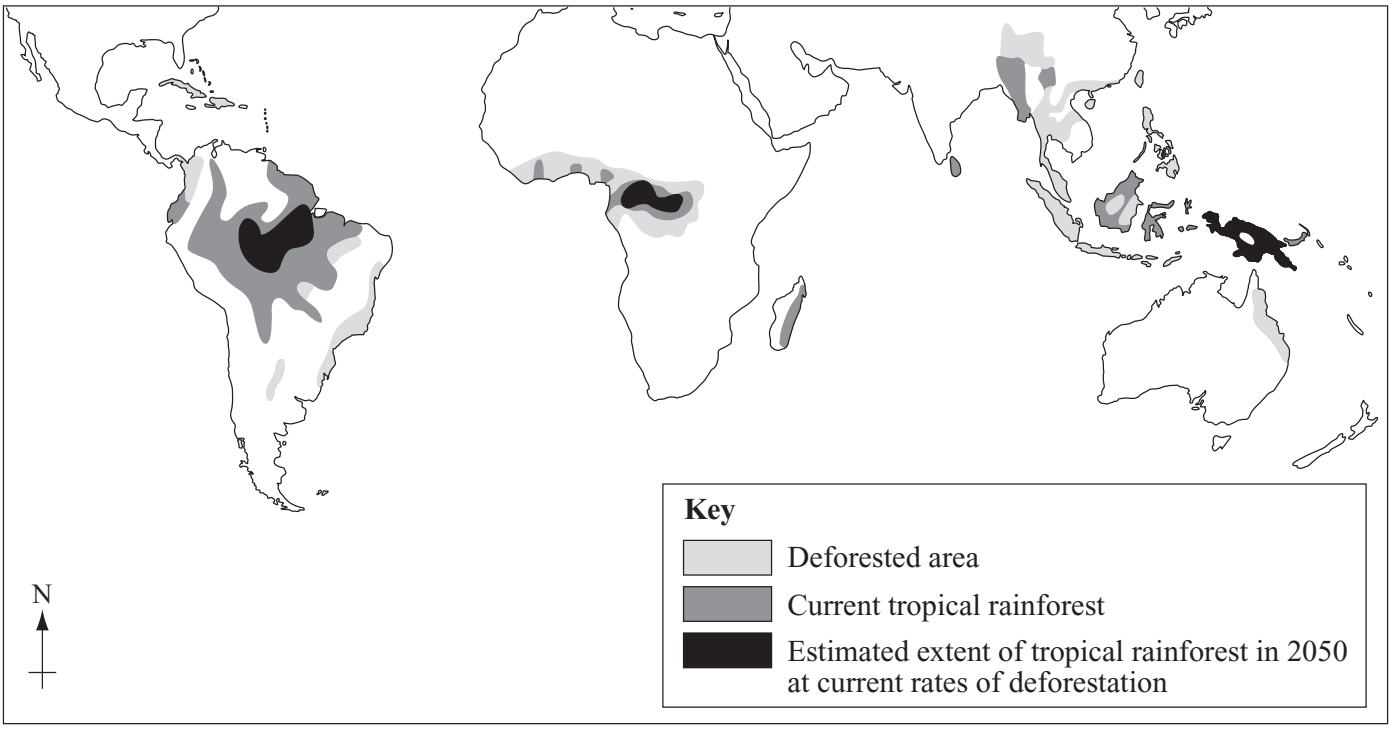


Figure 8

Arguments for conservation	Arguments for use
• More than half the world's estimated 10 million species of plants, animals and insects live in the tropical rainforests. If the forests are destroyed many of these will be lost forever. • The forests are home to many people. It is estimated that there were once 10 million Indians living in the Amazon rainforest in South America. There are now fewer than 200 000 but these people should be allowed to continue their traditional way of life. • There are many potential types of fruit that could be harvested. At present 200 are used commercially, including cocoa, ginger, pepper, bananas and pineapples. The Indians of the rainforest use over 2000. • The plant life of the rainforest may be important in maintaining the health of planet Earth. It takes in carbon dioxide and produces oxygen. The destruction of the forests might be a reason for **global warming**, where carbon dioxide is thought to be building up in the atmosphere and causing a gradual rise in temperature. • Over 100 medicines are made from rainforest products. However, it is estimated that only 1% of trees and plants have been tested for their possible medicinal use. • Most current uses of the rainforest, including mining, ranching and logging are unsustainable.	• The rainforests are in Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs). They give these countries a chance to grow richer. • Many of these countries are in debt to More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs). These debts could be paid off with money earned from using forest products. • There is still plenty of rainforest left. Although 15% of the Brazilian rainforest has been cut down in the last 30 years, 85% is still left. Reserves can be established and carefully managed. • As the MEDCs became wealthy in the 19th and 20th centuries they destroyed much of their forests. Is it fair to stop other countries from doing the same? • Global warming may be caused by air pollution from traffic and industry, most of which is created by the MEDCs. These countries should control their pollution more effectively than at present.

Source: "Brazilian Rainforest Destruction" by Nick Forsdich, *GeoActive*, Issue 3, April 2003, Nelson Thornes

Figure 9

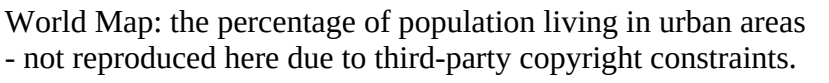


Figure 10

Figure 12

Figure 14

Advantages and disadvantages of greenfield and brownfield sites

Greenfield sites	**Brownfield sites**
• Greenfield sites have the obvious advantage of being undeveloped. There are no or few buildings to demolish, and there are no old roads or industrial debris to remove. Such sites are generally cheaper to develop. • Since at least the 1920s the pattern of demand has largely been for new housing to be located in rural or suburban settings. Young families and many retired people have sought the peace and quiet of a more rural location. For a long time there has been an image of the city centre as a place that is less safe, where there is pollution, congestion, noise, crime and in some cases a physically deteriorating environment. • Pressure to develop greenfield sites has been part of a pattern of urban change and where we choose to live. New out-of-town shopping and leisure centres, light industrial estates and office developments cater largely for the more mobile and affluent suburban and rural population. • It can be harder to obtain planning permission to develop greenfield land. At the edge of a town or city it is likely that rural land will be part of a **green belt** with accompanying restrictions on development. Rural populations, particularly in suburbanised villages, are generally well educated and articulate and will be likely to oppose new developments that could adversely affect their lifestyle. • Environmental standards are usually easier for developers to comply with for greenfield than brownfield sites – many brownfield sites have been exposed to some level of industrial pollution during their previous usage.	• Government policy is increasingly favouring the use of brownfield sites in order to prevent further loss of rural land and countryside. • Many urban brownfield sites have become vacant because they are no longer suited to their previous industrial uses – industries have changed, moved elsewhere or gone out of business. That being so, it is desirable that alternative use is made of these sites, rather than allowing them to stand vacant. • It is desirable that people should be able to live close to their places of work, which are usually in town and city centres. This will relieve congestion on the roads and transport infrastructure generally. • Some people prefer to live in an urban environment, with its nightlife, cultural facilities, shops, restaurants, libraries, etc. • Concern has been expressed about possible dangers where houses have been built on sites that were formerly dumps for waste and were contaminated. Such land may be cheap, but could pose risks to health and safety.

Source: "Issues relating to Greenfield and Brownfield Sites in the UK" by Paul Warburton, *Geofile Online*, No. 421, April 2002, Nelson Thornes