

This is the **Foundation Combined** version — Higher Tier and Separate-only content removed.

Human activities including deforestation, farming and urbanisation have dramatically altered natural habitats, threatening biodiversity and ecosystem stability.

- Deforestation: deliberate clearing of forests for: agriculture, cattle ranching, timber, settlements, palm oil plantations.
- Consequences of deforestation: habitat destruction → biodiversity loss; release of stored CO₂ (burning or decomposition); reduced rainfall (trees absorb and release water); soil erosion (roots no longer bind soil).
- Land use change: converting natural habitats to farmland, quarries, housing, roads — direct destruction of habitats.
- Eutrophication: agricultural fertilisers run into water → algal bloom → oxygen depletion → fish and aquatic organisms die.

Key Terms

Deforestation	Permanent removal of forest — destroys habitat, releases carbon, reduces biodiversity
Eutrophication	Over-enrichment of water with nutrients → algal bloom → O ₂ depletion → aquatic life dies
Land use	The way in which humans use land — farming, housing, industry replace natural habitats

■ **Exam Tip:** For eutrophication, always give the CHAIN: fertilisers → water → algal bloom → blocks light → aquatic plants die → bacteria decompose → bacteria use O₂ → O₂ depleted → fish suffocate. The chain must be complete for full marks.