

This is the **Foundation Separate** version — Higher Tier content has been 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 CO<sub>2</sub> (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

<b>Deforestation</b>	Permanent removal of forest — destroys habitat, releases carbon, reduces biodiversity
<b>Eutrophication</b>	Over-enrichment of water with nutrients → algal bloom → O <sub>2</sub> depletion → aquatic life dies
<b>Land use</b>	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 O<sub>2</sub> → O<sub>2</sub> depleted → fish suffocate. The chain must be complete for full marks.