

5 Agricultural regions and the environment — Part 2 — Answers

Answers

Work through these after you have tried the questions yourself.

5.6 Dry regions receive too little rainfall to support reliable crops, but the sparse vegetation can feed animals if the herd keeps moving to new pasture — so grazing is the only viable use of that land.

5.7 Irrigation water carries dissolved salts. In a hot dry climate the water evaporates from the soil surface while the salts remain, so with repeated irrigation salt accumulates until the concentration is high enough to damage crops.

5.8 Fertiliser runs off farmland into a lake or river, the added nutrients cause algae to bloom, the algae die and decompose, and decomposition consumes the dissolved oxygen — so fish and other aquatic life suffocate.

5.9 Food insecurity is usually a problem of access rather than supply: people may lack the income to buy food, or the transport and storage infrastructure may fail to move it from where it is grown to where it is needed.

5.10 Both are explained by bid-rent: the activity that can pay the highest rent occupies the land closest to the market or city centre, and land value falls with distance from it.