

# **UNIT 1: THE THREAT OF POLLUTION**

## **Reading Passage 1**

Environmental pollution is one of the impacts of human activities on the Earth. It is also one of the biggest problems of the world today because it brings about contamination, ecosystem, and the cause of some diseases that most people do not know about. There are four types of pollution, namely, air pollution, soil pollution, water pollution and noise pollution.

Most of the air pollution results from the burning of fossil fuels, motor vehicles, factories, aircraft and rockets. This can cause acid rain which damages water, soil, and vegetation . Air pollution also contributes to the greenhouse effect which can lead to a series of environmental problems such as global warming, polar ice melting, rise of sea levels and loss of land.

Soil pollution is a result of dumping plastic or other inorganic waste in the ground and the overuse of chemical fertilizers in agriculture. The long-term effects of soil pollution are contaminated vegetation and the decrease of soil fertility.

Water pollution is a result of dumping pollutants such as detergents, pesticides, oil, and other chemicals in rivers, which makes the water unclean or contaminated. Rubbish blockages in rivers can also cause pollution.

The effects of water pollution include the destruction of ecosystem of rivers, lakes and the pollution of groundwater, surface water and seawater.

Noise pollution is caused by loud and annoying sounds of motor vehicles, railway, aircraft and jet engines, factory machinery and musical instruments. It can cause stress and psychological and health problems for humans such as increased heart rate and hearing damage.

Environmental pollution is becoming an increasingly serious problem or threat that needs to be taken care of as soon as possible, not only for the sake of the environment, but also for the people that live in it.

## Quick quiz

What should be the best title of the passage?

- a. Natural Resource Depletion
- b. The Long-term Damage of Soil
- c. Environmental Pollution
- d. The Destruction of Ecosystem