

Grade 9 EMS Worksheet

Understanding the concept of sustainable development

Read the definition and explanation of sustainable development below and answer the questions that follow on your workbook.

The most common definition of sustainable development is: 'Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'

There are three pillars to sustainable development. These pillars, which appear in the slogan used at the World Summit for Sustainable Development, are 'Care and respect for People; Planet; and Prosperity'. All three these aspects are equally important and should be addressed at the same time. The pillar called 'People' has to do with poverty alleviation. 'Planet' deals with conservation. 'Prosperity' deals with business development.

- a) What does 'compromise' mean in this context? [1 mark]
- b) What is 'the World Summit for Sustainable Development'? [3 marks]
- c) What are the three pillars of sustainable development? [3 marks]
- d) Why are the three pillars equally important and why should they be addressed at the same time? [4 marks]
- e) Explain in your own words what sustainable development is. [1 mark]

[Total: 12 marks]

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Suggested Solutions

Question number	Possible marks	Solution
1	12	<p>a) To compromise in this context means to endanger or bring into disrepute by unwise or negligent actions. [1 mark]</p> <p>b) The World Summit for Sustainable Development is an earth summit that took place in Johannesburg in 2002 to discuss sustainable development✓. It was arranged by the United Nations and involved leaders from business and non-governmental organisations✓. It was a follow-up to the Earth Summit that was held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992✓. [3 marks]</p> <p>c) The three pillars of sustainable development are care and respect for people✓, care and respect for the planet✓ and prosperity (which refers to commercial activities)✓. [3 marks]</p> <p>d) All three these pillars are equally important✓ because without alleviating poverty, you cannot expect people to conserve the environment✓. Without conserving the environment and alleviating poverty, you cannot have business development✓, and without business development there will be no resources to alleviate poverty and conserve the environment✓. [4 marks]</p> <p>e) Sustainable development means to be aware of the people and environment so that they are not harmed when people try to meet their needs. It is essential that development be sustainable so that future generations can meet their needs as we do. [1 mark]</p>