

Assignment 1

REN1201 Environmental Studies

ATTACH THIS FORM TO YOUR ASSIGNMENT

Assignment Cover Sheet

DETAILS TO BE COMPLETED BY STUDENT (Print)

Name (print): _____ Student Number: _____

Course Mode (tick box ONC Toowoomba ONC Springfield External

Student Declaration:

I hold a copy of this assignment which I can produce if the original is lost or damaged. I hereby certify that no part of this assignment has been copied from any other student's work or from any other source except where due acknowledgement is made in the assignment. No part of this assignment has been written for me by any other person except where such collaboration has been authorised by the course team leader or the lecturer concerned. I further declare that I have read and understand the University's policy regarding plagiarism.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Notes:

1. An Examiner has, and may exercise, the right not to mark this assignment if the above declaration has not been signed. If the declaration is found to be false, appropriate action will be taken which would lead to zero marks being awarded for this assignment and/or failure in the course.
2. While not plagiarism *per se*, it is extremely poor academic practice to copy large tracts of text from other sources, even though you may attribute those sources. Such practice will be heavily penalised.

Assignment 1 (Biodiversity Review)

Due date:	26 March 2009
Weighting:	15% of total marks
Format:	Written assignment

Markers Use Only	
Grade Awarded:	/15
Marker Initials:	

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Topic:

Five major human activities have been recognised as significantly impacting on global biodiversity through species extinction. Discuss each of these activities, indicating where necessary what problems there are in determining the extent of impacts. In your answer provide suitable definitions of both biodiversity and extinction.

In your essay you should introduce and briefly discuss biodiversity in general terms (including a suitable definition of biodiversity). A brief definition/overview of extinction should also be provided. You should then provide suitable detail on each of the five major causes of extinction that are contributed to by human activities and any problems we have in trying to assess these. Finally, some concluding remarks should be made, including such things as the extent of the problem, what changes in attitudes/activities are needed etc.

Notes:

1. Your assignment must be word processed and you should provide appropriate references. Follow the **Writing Guidelines for Assignments** available on the Course Website
2. It is anticipated that your assignment will be in the range of 800-1200 words (excl. figures, references etc).
3. While you may use the internet to help in your search for material, you are only permitted to cite a **maximum of 3 internet sources**. Encyclopaedic sources (such as Wikipedia) are **not** accepted at this level.
4. Copying material directly from sources is not acceptable. Plagiarism in any form is not acceptable and will be dealt with under USQ Regulations.

Marking Scheme:

Criteria	Weight	Mark
Overall presentation, layout (overall formatting)	5	
Expression, grammar, spelling	10	
Flow, structure	8	
Content (depth/integration/understanding)	30	
Use and citation of references	7	
Total	60	

Markers Comments:

Do not attach these pages to your assignment

Guidelines & FAQs

Additional Guidelines

Further to the preceding information, you are required to construct your assignment as a 'mini-essay'. In so doing, you should ensure your assignment has reasonable sentence and paragraph construction and makes sense logically.

Note the allocation of marks to expression, formatting, use of reference etc. You should provide some suitable references for material in the assignment – at least 4 or 5 key references. Note the limit on internet references.

Formatting Requirements

- Length:** 800-1,200 words (absolute maximum: 1,500 words) excluding tables/figures, references, title page etc
- Format:** word processed or typed; 12 pt font; 1.5 line spacing; one side of paper only; 3 cm left & right margins throughout.
- Referencing:** Harvard referencing system preferred; APA system also accepted; however, do not use footnotes.
- Attachments:** marking scheme; assignment cover sheet (including signed statutory declaration).

FAQs

- *Do we need an 'abstract' or 'summary'?*
No
- *Can I submit a hand-written assignment?*
No.
- *Do we follow the 'Introduction -> Body -> Conclusion' pattern to answer the question?*

It is always good practice to think about the structure of your answer. We at least expect an introductory paragraph, the middle bit (bulk) and a concluding paragraph. The use of headings and subheadings may also help you to structure your answer.

- *Are we required to use a contents page/table listing numbered sub-headings etc, or do we just use un-numbered sub-headings?*
Contents pages & the like are not required for this assignment, although you may still wish to use sub-headings (numbered or un-numbered).
- *Can we include diagrams and figures in the assignment?*
Yes. Indeed, some components are best answered with the inclusion of a diagram. However, you should ensure that you have appropriately acknowledged the source (reference) of any diagram (including those from your study materials).
- *Are Encyclopaedic references (CD-ROM or online) allowed?*
Encyclopaedic-type references (such as *Encarta*, *Wikipedia*, etc) are **not acceptable** at this level (in any University courses) and we would expect that you have moved well-beyond this type of reference.
- *Is the list of references a 'bibliography' in that we can list sources that we used to research the topics but didn't make reference to within the assignment?*
No, only include references that you actually cite in the body of the text.
- *Is there a minimum number of references?*
We would expect at least four or five key references, most students will have more, but 20 references would seem rather excessive.
- *Can I use internet references?*
You are only allowed to cite a maximum of three internet sources, although you may check out many more as part of your researching. Internet sources are a useful and quick starting point, but we would expect the majority of your references to be primary sources (journals etc) or at least secondary sources (text books, reviews etc).
- *I really don't think I will be able to get my assignment in on time, how do I apply for an extension?*
Extensions can only be granted by the course examiner and are given for *bona fide* reasons only. An email request directly to the course examiner (lebrocq@usq.edu.au) is the preferred method for applying for an extension of due date for an assignment
- *Can I apply for an extension on or after the day the assignment is due?*
No. The University policy regarding extensions stipulates that requests for extension must be made prior to the due date.
- *Is there a penalty for late submission?*
Yes. In accordance with University policy, you will be penalised 5% per (working) day your assignment is overdue.