

## Grade 9 Life Orientation Worksheet

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### Pollution

Read the following passage.

#### **Two-thirds of SA's coast threatened by pollution**

**Bobby Jordan**

**Published: Nov 02, 2008**

<http://www.thetimes.co.za>

Worrying report prompts major clampdown on ocean contaminants.

South Africa's once pristine coastline is disappearing under an incoming tide of plastic, toxic chemicals, and medical and human waste.

That's the damning verdict of a government report into marine pollution, which says 65% of the country's coast is threatened — 12% of it critically so.

“There has been a realisation that 80% of all marine pollution can be linked to some kind of land-based activity”

While the country's ocean is still relatively clean compared with severely polluted beaches and bays in the northern hemisphere, we may not be lagging that far behind.

The report by the Department of Marine and Coastal Management signals a major clampdown against marine polluters — with the introduction of new legislation, a comprehensive monitoring programme and the possibility of new marine-protected areas.

This is partly aimed at saving the country's famed beaches that will be on show during the 2010 Soccer World Cup and follows an increase in sewage spills into estuaries and the ocean.

Several worrying findings surfaced in the report, including:

- A dramatic increase, between 1991 and 2004, of sewage discharges to estuaries and ocean surf (inshore), as a result of population growth along the coast;
- An increase in sewage discharges into inshore ocean areas, from 33.6 million cubic metres in 1991 to 109 million cubic metres in 2004;
- The discharge of material from offshore ocean sewage outlets, to the extent that it poses a potential hazard to passing ships;
- A link between poor sea water quality and swimmers with gastro-intestinal and respiratory and skin symptoms, according to a Cape Town study;
- A doubling of urbanisation along KwaZulu-Natal's coastal belt over the past decade;
- Malfunctioning sewage pump stations in parts of the country; and

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- Pumping of a staggering 128800 cubic metres of waste water into the ocean every day by the mining industry, raising concerns about toxic chemicals.

In addition the report raises concerns about the future of South Africa's Blue Flag beaches. Poor water quality caused four of KwaZulu-Natal's beaches to lose their Blue Flag status earlier this year.

The report also refers to the disturbing findings of a recent audit of beach litter, which detailed major increases in plastic and medical waste. The study, which compared 1994 litter collections with 2005 collections, found a 184% increase in medical and sewage waste, a 171% increase in plastic lids, a 157% increase in packaging and single-use items and an 88% increase in floating recreational litter.

Answer the following questions:

1. What are the major causes of pollution along South African coastlines? [3]
2. What do you think can be done in order to prevent some of the pollution along our coastlines? Write a paragraph covering some of the issues raised in the news article above. [8]
3. What do you think will happen as a result of this pollution problem if it is not dealt with? [4]

Total marks: 15

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### Suggested Solutions

Task number	Possible marks	Solution
1	3	Most of the pollution is due to land-based activity such as plastic, toxic chemicals, and medical and human waste.
2	8	Own answer.
3	4	Own answer.
Total	15	