

## *Plastic pollution in the oceans*

### **Assignment**

#### **The global pollution threat to marine ecosystems.**

The following question has been designed for A2 and IB students studying any, or all, of these topics:

- global threats to marine biodiversity
- environmental impacts of globalisation
- synoptic geography

**“Pollution of the world’s oceans is a global problem requiring global solutions.”**

#### **Discuss**

##### **Examiner tips**

*Your answer could address the following points, or ideas of your own:*

- What are the main pollution threats to the world’s oceans? (You may have your own ideas about oil pollution or eutrophication, in addition to the plastic waste examined in the accompanying scheme of work).
- Outline the negative impacts that pollution brings e.g. to birds, mammals or wilderness environments, such as island shorelines
- Is there a strong case for seeing this as a ‘global’ problem in terms of its origin (i.e. the countries or people responsible for producing plastic and other waste or pollution? Or do some countries take greater responsibility?)
- How do physical factors contribute to ocean pollution becoming a truly global problem (hint: write about the ocean conveyor)
- What kind of solutions to the problem exist and can they be realistically implemented at a global scale?
- What, if anything, can be done about the pollution already in Earth’s oceans?