Chapter 9: Social and Environmental Responsibility

Unit 1: Harmful Social and Environmental Effects
Poverty leads to:

1. Lack of freedom.
2. Social and environmental injustice.
3. If you lack freedom, you don’t have choices.
While you live in poverty:

- You cannot choose to live in a nice house with a beautiful view, fresh air, lots of trees in the garden, and have running water and electricity.
While you live in poverty...

- You probably live in a small place with no running water, garden or electricity
When you live in poverty..

- You may have to live near a rubbish dump or a factory that spills toxic (poisonous) fumes into the air
Because you are poor, you can’t get out of this poverty
Environmental Justice

Means putting right the situation of environmental injustice
Environmental injustice happens when:

- People with fewer choices, such as the poor and disadvantaged, suffer the most from pollution, from work that is dangerous to their health and from not having access to resources.
- There is resource depletion, for example: the lessening of fishing stock, trees and firewood.
- Poor people also have unequal access to basic resources such as water and energy (e.g. electricity).
Social justice means putting right the situation of social injustice.
Social injustice happens when:

- People with fewer choices, such as the poor and disadvantaged, suffer the most from discrimination based on for example: ability, age, culture, gender, race and religious beliefs
- People with fewer choices lack acknowledgement of their human rights and access to services such as health services, a good education and housing
Environmental and Social Justice

➢ Both environmental and social justice mean stopping people with fewer choices from being exploited and disadvantaged
➢ To be exploited means to be taken advantage of and to be oppressed
Our Constitution States that everyone has the right to:

✓ An environment that is not harmful to their health and well-being
✓ Security, which means freedom from poverty or need such as hunger, thirst and shelter; it also means to be protected
✓ Safety, which is to be safe and out of harm’s way; it is freedom from danger, risk, harm or injury
Complete the activity below

Activity 1: Analyse quote

Look at this quote:

“Overcoming poverty is not a good gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life. While poverty persists, there is no true freedom’ Nelson Mandela

1. What does Nelson Mandela mean when he says: Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity? (5)
2. Which fundamental human rights does Nelson Mandela refer to? (2)
3. What does this statement mean: While poverty exists, there is no true freedom? (5)
4. Explain in your own words the meaning of environmental and social justice. Give an example of each. (6)
5. Give an example of an environment that is not harmful to your health and well-being. (2)