READING COMPREHENSION: CROPS

Humans require macronutrients (carbohydrates, protein, and essential oils) and micronutrients (vitamins and minerals) in their diets. Early humans obtained these nutrients through their hunting and gathering lifestyle. However, once farming started, societies that practiced agriculture outcompeted those that practiced hunting and gathering. Today, humans are almost totally an agriculturally-based society, and so we get the vast majority of our macronutrients and micronutrients through agriculture. Fishing, whaling, and sealing are the exceptions to this, but their impacts are slowly being lessened due to the advent of fish farms and government regulations.

Instructions

Short Answer (18 marks)

Your written assignments should follow APA or CSE formatting and citations. If you have any questions regarding the assignment, please contact your instructor.

Resources

Your instructor will either provide you with an article to read or help you choose one for yourself. This article will address the cultivation of a particular crop species by early farmers. Read it and then answer the following questions.

Short Answer

Answer the following six questions relating to your article and the readings from this unit. Answer in full sentences and short paragraphs. Each question is worth 3 marks.

* + 1. Why was the crop plant highlighted in your article chosen to be cultivated?
		2. What nutritional value was provided by the crop?
		3. How did the local population acquire the other nutrients they required?
		4. How many people did the crop support?
		5. Did the local farmers trade their crop with other communities? If so, what commodities were imported?
		6. Was the crop adopted by other communities? If so, how far did the crop spread?

Part B: Essay (40 marks)

Write an essay of 500–750 words (2–3 pages double-spaced) on the following topic; present the concepts in your own words, and include current information:

The production of food, spices, dyes, and fragrances for our growing population impacts our environment, economy, and culture, and this impact is felt locally, nationally, and globally. Choose one food product and determine whether its production is harmful or beneficial to society. To argue your point, trace its historical usage; determine its present and historical importance to society; and outline the impact of its production on the environment and local culture. Consider whether its production is sustainable, and if it can be or is being produced differently in other parts of the world.