

The oceans cover about three quarters of the world's surface. These have an essential role to play in maintaining the human race. They are especially important as a source of food, but they face a threat to **their** survival, which is serious for man too.

Stocks of fish are being reduced because the oceans are systematically poisoned by sewage, DDT and radio-active materials.

To take one example, DDT, the insecticide originally intended to kill only insect pests, has now found **its** way to the furthest corners of the world. It is present in the bodies of animals and fish in the Antarctic and also in the human body all over the world. To take another example, the amount of mercury in the oceans has reached dangerous levels. Like DDT, it accumulates in the body, so it is especially dangerous. A few years ago, large amounts of tuna fish had to be destroyed because the mercury level was dangerously high.

About twenty years ago, about forty people died in Japan as a result of eating locally caught fish which had accumulated mercury salts.

Pollution from oil is also a growing danger. Every year, about one million tons of oil ends up in the oceans, although recently an agreement has been signed to prevent at least some of this. The oil which gets into the sea sinks to the seabed and destroys all plant life and shellfish for a long time. Parts of the Mediterranean have been made lifeless in **this way**. In 1967, the tanker "TORREY CANYON" ran aground off the Coast of Cornwall and spilled about 117.000 tons of oil into the sea, killing half a million sea birds and covering beaches in France and England with oil.

No country alone can prevent the growing pollution of oceans: only international agreements have any hope of success in saving the oceans for man.

I. COMPREHENSION

BASE YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT

A. Fill in the following chart with information from the text. (5pts)

| Elements | Their dangers | Their consequences |
|----------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| DDT | | |
| Mercury | accumulates in the body | |
| Oil | | |

B. Answer these questions (2 pts)

1- Why are the oceans so important to the human race?

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2- Are the efforts made enough to stop sea pollution? Explain

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C. Are these statements true or false? Justify (2 pts)

1- DDT is originally intended to kill all species of animals.

2- Sea pollution is not a real threat to people.

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D. Complete the following sentences from the text. (3pts)

1- The oceans are essential for the human race because.....

2- Since a lot of oil has sunk into the Mediterranean,.....

