

LETTER TO THE EDITOR. When Con went to visit his cousin Nick on his cattle station, he couldn't go fishing in the local river because salination had killed all the fish. Con was so angry about this that he wrote a letter to the local paper.

Read the **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**, then answer the questions.

Dear Editor,

I think something needs to be done to clean up the local river. The water is so salty it is killing plants and fish.

The river is being polluted by salt because there are many crops in the area and not enough trees. Unlike crops, trees have deep roots which lower the water table and therefore prevent salt rising to the surface. When there aren't enough trees, the water runoff into the river is very high in salt. This rise in the amount of salt in soil and water is called salination. It is a type of water pollution and should be stopped.

Salination becomes even more of a problem if crops are irrigated too much. Irrigation helps crops to grow but it can lead to salination if it isn't done properly.

We need to do something now before the river dies and our environment is destroyed forever.

Con Mavros.



46. Con says that *water pollution should be stopped*.

Which of these words has a similar force to 'should'?

- ☐ can
- ☐ may
- ☐ must
- ☐ could

47. Why has Con used paragraphs in his letter?

- ☐ because it looks neater
- ☐ to group his main ideas
- ☐ because the local paper told him to
- ☐ to use a new line for each sentence

48. *This rise in the amount of salt in soil and water is called salination.*

What is this sentence doing?

- ☐ defining salination
- ☐ arguing against salination
- ☐ explaining how salination occurs
- ☐ recounting when salination happens

49. The noun *irrigation* is made from the verb 'irrigating'. Making a noun from a verb is called nominalisation.

Which of these nouns is a nominalisation?

- ☐ station
- ☐ amount
- ☐ pollution
- ☐ environment

50. What type of text is Con's letter?

- ☐ a report
- ☐ a narrative
- ☐ a procedure
- ☐ an argument

END OF TEST

Acknowledgements

DET NSW Student Assessment and Reporting. (1999). Con Mavros Letter to the Editor. *Linking ELLA to Geography, 1999*, 19. This material originated from NSW Department of Education and Training © NSW Department of Education and Training.