

Question 13 (8 marks)

Many products are designed to have a limited 'lifespan' – that is, they are designed to be replaced rather than repaired.

- (a) Give reasons why designers develop new products with a limited 'lifespan'. 2

products are built in obsolescence so as to ensure potential for improved products in the future, which will in turn will allow market growth, increased profits, and an increased opportunity to develop innovative concepts.

- (b) Explain the effects on society and the environment of designing products with a limited lifespan. 6

By designing products in this manner the influences on society can include; decreased financial ability as individuals have to continuously purchase new products, e.g. electric kettle, increased market activity as new products are sold/replaced, which can lead to greater opportunity for designers to develop new products. With an increase in available products, consumers have a greater choice which can influence customer trends from increased spending. For products with a limited lifespan, ~~there is a greater consumption of resources in production~~ there is a greater consumption of resources in production which also leads to increase in waste, and also energy consumption to manufacture and dispose of products, which can dramatically effect the environment. E.g. 50 electric kettles are produced, to last specifically for 5 years, ^{after that 50 are} no longer functional, those 50 kettles no longer function correctly, and become land fill, and create opportunity for 50 more kettles to be produced and distributed.