

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

So that the designer can develop the "replacement" product and continue to make money. This also provides the designer of the product to use cheaper materials for design.

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

The effect on society is that products continue to break down, causing them to continually re-purchase products ultimately by spending more money.

The effect which takes place on the environment is from the massive amount of waste this causes which in turn damages the environment through landfill and other disposal methods.

Another social effect is that poor brands of products which have shorter life spans will lose customers to companies known for making good quality and longer "lifespan".