

How does carbon dioxide affect corals?

*Mark Scheme.*

Corals are tiny animals, many of which have a hard skeleton surrounding their soft body. This skeleton dissolves if the sea water the coral lives in becomes too acid.



1) What effect has the carbon dioxide had on the pH of the solution?

*Rising carbon dioxide levels lowers the pH /makes it more acidic*

*(1 mark)*

The level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is rising and this is increasing the level of carbon dioxide in the oceans.

2) How might rising carbon dioxide levels in the oceans affect coral?

*The hard skeletons of the coral will be damaged.*

*(1 mark)*

*and the coral will die.*

*(1 mark)*

3) Do you think this will affect any other species in the ocean? Explain your answer.

*It will affect other species.*

*(1 mark)*

*Any species which feeds on the coral, or shelters in it, will see their numbers fall. The whole food web may collapse.*

*(any 2 for 2 marks)*

*Species which are prey for the coral eg plankton, may increase in number.*

*(2 marks)*