**Practice Question**

Climate change is the increasing temperatures caused by the greenhouse effect. Rising sea levels and changing weather patterns are a major concern, affecting the health and wellbeing of all individuals.

The build up of greenhouse gases in our Earth’s atmosphere traps the heat of the sun, contributing to global warming and rising sea levels. This may pose as a serious problem to those living in coastal areas as they may experience higher levels of stress and anxiety (mental H+W) as they worry about the safety of their families and homes as the sea levels rise, increasing the risk of major water damage and destruction to homes.

Rising sea levels as well as changing weather patterns may also cause the displacement of many people. Increased risks of water and fire damage on people’s homes due to rising sea levels and changing weather patterns may mean their homes are not suitable to live in, leaving them without one. This could ultimately reduce people’s level of resilience (emotional H+W) as they struggle to cope with the thought of losing their homes and possessions.

Those living in poverty may experience a lack of food due to rising sea levels as some crops may be unable to grow in the land that is of high concentration of salt. These sources of food may be the only ones people in poverty stricken places rely on, ultimately taking away their only source of nutrients. The lack of nutritious foods may cause malnourishment, especially in young children, meaning they may have a weak immune system (physical H+W) as they do not have the required nutrients needed to grow.

Children and those who work outdoors may be affected by changing weather conditions as they are at higher risk of exposure to environmental factors such as heatwaves and thunderstorm asthma. This could ultimately reduce their ability to complete physical tasks adequately as they may be affected by these factors.

Finally, changing weather conditions may mean that temperatures in some countries may increase severely, causing an increase in the incidence of heatstroke patients. If a country has a poor healthcare system, then these people may be unable to be treated, ultimately decreasing freedom from disease, illness and even injury (physical H+W) as people would have no way of treating these conditions, and thus suffer with them.

Overall, the health and wellbeing of all people can be affected by climate change.