**Case Study Example – Should governments use laws to protect the environment**

* In Country X, there are very few government controls on business activity. The Government of Country X wants to encourage businesses to start up and grow. A Government Minister said that: ‘Legal controls over pollution and disposal of waste add to business costs. This will discourage production in our country.’ Country X sells many products, such as cars, clothing and chemicals in world markets at very low prices.
* In Country Y, the Government has very strict lows to control the ways in which businesses dispose of their waste, how much pollution they can produce and where new factories are located. A minister in the Government said: ‘We believe that businesses have a social responsibility to our community not to damage the environment. These laws have encouraged businesses to use much cleaner production methods. They have also developed products that pollute the environment much less than cheaper products. Many consumers in the world today will only buy ‘environmentally friendly’ products’.

**Activity 27.3** - Using the case study:

1. What is meant by the term social responsibility?

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1. Identify and explain **two** reasons why the Government in Country X does not have strict controls on business activity that affects the environment.

Reason 1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
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Reason 2:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
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1. Identify and explain **two** ways in which business activity can damage the environment. Use examples from your own country.

Method 1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
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Method 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
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1. Do you think that the Government of Country Y is right to use strict laws against businesses that damage the environment? Justify your answer.

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