KS5

A-level Environmental Science 2026
Summer work

Name: _____

Students who enjoy a multi-disciplinary approach to learning and have a keen interest in the sustainability of our planet will find this subject engaging and thought provoking. In preparation for starting this course in September your task is to complete the two glossaries. This means you must write clear and concise definitions for key terms used in the Year 12 units of study; The Living Environment and The Physical Environment.

To be able to complete this task research will be essential, but don't copy and paste any of your answers.

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The Living Environment Glossary

Key Term	Definition
Seed banks	
Ramsar sites	
Biological corridors	
Abiotic factors	
Biotic factors	
Plagioclimax	
Ecological succession	
Seres	
Hydrosere	
Lithosere	
Psammosere	
Taxonomy	
Species	
Ecological niche	

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The Physical Environment Glossary

Key Term	Definition
Atmosphere	
Troposphere	
Stratosphere	
Infrared (IR) radiation	
Dynamic equilibrium	
Ultraviolet (UV) light	
Greenhouse effect	
Enhanced greenhouse effect	
Ozone layer	
Tropospheric ozone	
El Nino	
La Nina	
Negative feedback mechanism	
Positive feedback mechanism	

CFCs	
Proxy data	
Ice core data	
Tipping points	
Carbon sequestration	
Carbon capture and storage (CCS)	
Rowland-Molina hypothesis	
Montreal protocol	
Hydrosphere	
Residence Time	
Infiltration	
Surface flow	
Evapotranspiration	

Interception	
Percolation	
Water table	
Aquifer	
Porosity	
Permeability	
Artificial aquifer recharge	
Reservoirs	
Grey water	
Lithosphere	
Hydrothermal deposition	
Reserve	
Resource	

Cut-off ore grade	
Cradle to cradle design	
Biogeochemical cycles	
Photosynthesis	
Respiration	
Nitrogen fixation	
Nitrification	
Denitrification	
Soil fertility	
Soil texture	
Soil structure	