The environment

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
ADVANCED | C1

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Match each advanced term with its definition.

1 planetary boundaries ____	**a** limits within which humanity can safely operate without destabilising Earth's systems
2 anthropogenic ____	**b** caused or influenced by human activity
3 externalised cost ____	**c** a cost of production shifted onto third parties or the environment rather than the producer
4 decoupling ____	**d** achieving economic growth while reducing environmental impact
5 environmental justice ____	**e** the fair distribution of environmental benefits and burdens across social groups
6 ecosystem services ____	**f** the benefits nature provides to people, such as clean water or pollination
7 stranded assets ____	**g** investments that lose value prematurely due to environmental or regulatory change
8 just transition ____	**h** a shift to a low-carbon economy that protects affected workers and communities
9 carbon lock-in ____	**i** dependency on carbon-intensive infrastructure that makes change difficult
10 attribution science ____	**j** research linking specific extreme weather events to climate change

2 Choose the most precise term for each context.

1 Limits within which humanity can safely operate are planetary boundaries / unlimited resources.

2 Change caused by human activity is anthropogenic / naturally occurring.

3 A cost shifted onto others rather than the producer is an externalised cost / an internal cost.

4 Growing the economy while reducing impact is decoupling / coupling.

5 Fair distribution of environmental burdens is environmental justice / environmental indifference.

6 Benefits nature provides to people are ecosystem services / manufactured goods.

7 Investments losing value due to regulatory change are stranded assets / secure assets.

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8 A shift protecting workers during decarbonisation is a just transition / an abrupt shutdown.

3 Match the verbs with the noun phrases to form academic collocations.

1 internalise ____	**a** an externality
2 decarbonise ____	**b** the economy
3 safeguard ____	**c** ecosystem services
4 attribute ____	**d** an extreme weather event to climate change
5 mobilise ____	**e** public support
6 transition away from ____	**f** fossil fuel dependency
7 quantify ____	**g** residual emissions
8 offset ____	**h** planetary boundaries

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4 Complete the analysis with terms from the box.

anthropogenic | attribution science | carbon lock-in | decoupling | ecosystem services | environmental justice | externalised cost | just transition | planetary boundaries | stranded assets

Earth system scientists have proposed a framework of 1 _____ to identify limits within which human activity can continue without destabilising critical systems. Much of the damage documented is unambiguously 2 _____, driven by industrial activity rather than natural variation. Economists note that pollution functions as a classic 3 _____, a burden imposed on society that market prices rarely reflect. Advances in 4 _____ now allow researchers to link specific extreme weather events statistically to climate change with increasing confidence. Meanwhile, 5 _____, the benefits nature provides free of charge, such as pollination and water filtration, are increasingly incorporated into economic modelling. Policymakers debate whether genuine 6 _____ - continued economic growth alongside falling emissions - is achievable at the scale required, given persistent 7 _____ in existing fossil fuel infrastructure. Fossil fuel investments increasingly risk becoming 8 _____ as regulation tightens, raising urgent questions of 9 _____ for workers in affected industries, and underscoring the need for a genuinely 10 _____ that protects vulnerable communities during the shift to a low-carbon economy.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Who bears the cost of environmental change

Environmental justice scholars increasingly highlight that the burdens of pollution and climate change fall disproportionately on communities that contributed least to causing them, both internationally and within individual countries. Wealthier nations and individuals, having historically generated the majority of anthropogenic emissions, often possess greater resources to adapt, while low-income and marginalised communities frequently face the most severe consequences with the least capacity to respond. This asymmetry complicates international climate negotiations, as developing nations reasonably argue that emissions reductions should account for historical responsibility rather than applying uniform targets regardless of a country's contribution to the problem. A just transition framework attempts to address these disparities directly, rather than treating decarbonisation as a purely technical challenge.

1 What do environmental justice scholars increasingly highlight? _____

2 Who often possesses greater resources to adapt to climate change? _____

3 Who frequently faces the most severe consequences? _____

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4 What does this asymmetry complicate? _____

5 What do developing nations reasonably argue emissions reductions should account for? _____

6 What does a just transition framework attempt to do? _____

6 Replace the words in bold with a precise term or collocation.

1 The pollution cost was shifted onto society rather than the producer. _____

2 The damage was clearly caused by human activity. _____

3 The investment lost value prematurely due to new regulation. _____

4 The shift to clean energy protected affected workers fairly. _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a 160-190 word critical commentary on how environmental costs and benefits are distributed unequally across society, distinguishing observation from inference.

[ ] Use at least twelve target expressions. [ ] Include four academic collocations. [ ] Maintain a precise, balanced register.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Advanced terms

1 a 2 b 3 c 4 d 5 e 6 f 7 g 8 h 9 i 10 j

2 Precise terms

1 planetary boundaries 2 anthropogenic 3 an externalised cost 4 decoupling 5 environmental justice 6 ecosystem services 7 stranded assets 8 a just transition

3 Academic collocations

1 a internalise an externality 2 b decarbonise the economy 3 c safeguard ecosystem services 4 d attribute an extreme weather event to climate change
5 e mobilise public support 6 f transition away from fossil fuel dependency 7 h quantify planetary boundaries... note adjust 8 g offset residual emissions

4 Analysis

1 planetary boundaries 2 anthropogenic 3 externalised cost 4 attribution science 5 ecosystem services
6 decoupling 7 carbon lock-in 8 stranded assets 9 just transition 10 just transition

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 That the burdens of pollution and climate change fall disproportionately on communities that contributed least to causing them.
2 Wealthier nations and individuals.
3 Low-income and marginalised communities.
4 International climate negotiations.
5 Historical responsibility.
6 Address these disparities directly, rather than treating decarbonisation as a purely technical challenge.

6 Precise terms and collocations

1 an externalised cost 2 anthropogenic 3 a stranded asset 4 a just transition

Over to you

Answers will vary. Look for conceptual precision, evidence-aware reasoning and balanced evaluation.