Environmental problems

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each environmental problem or response with its meaning.

1 ozone depletion	____	a protecting species, habitats and resources
2 habitat loss	____	b electricity or heat from sources that naturally renew
3 overfishing	____	c reduction in the protective ozone layer
4 soil erosion	____	d site where waste is buried
5 renewable energy	____	e removal of topsoil by wind or water
6 conservation	____	f activity intended to compensate for emissions elsewhere
7 carbon offset	____	g catching fish faster than populations can recover
8 landfill	____	h destruction or fragmentation of places where species live

2 Complete the compound nouns and collocations.

carbon | **climate** | **ecological** | **efficiency** | **emissions** | **environmental** | **species** | **waste**

1 reduce greenhouse-gas _____

2 improve energy _____

3 adapt to _____ change

4 protect endangered _____

5 lower a _____ footprint

6 support _____ recovery

7 strengthen _____ regulation

8 ensure safe _____ disposal

3 Correct one mistake in each sentence.

1 The factory must reduce the pollutants it **pollutionates**. _____

2 These plates are convenient but completely **dispose**. _____

3 The project caused the **destructive** of a wetland. _____

4 We need a major **reduce** in fossil-fuel use. _____

5 Please dispose **these batteries** responsibly. _____

6 The policy aims to protect the natural **environmental**. _____

7 The river was badly **pollution** by mining waste. _____

8 Solar power is an **environment friend** option. _____

Environmental problems

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

4 Complete the environmental action plan with words from the box.

carbon offset | conservation | efficiency | emissions | habitat loss | landfill | overfishing | renewable energy | soil erosion | waste disposal

The plan prioritises lower **1** _____ through better energy **2** _____ and more **3** _____. A limited **4** _____ scheme will cover unavoidable travel. Stronger marine rules will address **5** _____, while new protected areas support **6** _____ and reduce **7** _____. Farmers will plant ground cover against **8** _____. Finally, improved **9** _____ should reduce the amount sent to **10** _____.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Repairing a damaged river

For decades, industrial discharge and untreated sewage reduced oxygen levels in the River Aire. New regulation required factories to treat wastewater, while the city modernised its sewage system. Wetlands were restored beside the river to filter runoff and provide habitat. Water quality improved, and several fish species returned. However, heavy rain can still overwhelm drains and wash pollutants into the river. Restoration is therefore an ongoing process involving infrastructure, enforcement and changes across the whole catchment.

1 What two sources polluted the river? _____

2 What did factories have to do? _____

3 Why were wetlands restored? _____

4 What evidence shows improvement? _____

5 What problem occurs during heavy rain? _____

6 Why is restoration still ongoing? _____

6 Rewrite using the word in capitals.

1 Too many fish are being caught for stocks to recover. **OVERFISHING** ___

2 The town buries most rubbish at one site. **LANDFILL** _____

3 Wind is removing the farm's topsoil. **EROSION** _____

4 The company paid for a project to compensate for its flight. **OFFSET** ___

OVER TO YOU

Write a **100-120 word** environmental action plan for a school, town or company. Identify two problems, propose measures and explain how progress should be measured.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Use environmental word families accurately. [ ] Include measurable outcomes.

Environmental problems

ANSWER KEY

1 Problems and responses

1 **c** 2 **h** 3 **g** 4 **e** 5 **b** 6 **a** 7 **f** 8 **d**

2 Compounds and collocations

1 **emissions** 2 **efficiency** 3 **climate** 4 **species** 5 **carbon** 6 **ecological** 7 **environmental** 8 **waste**

3 Corrections

1 pollutants it **emits** 2 completely **disposable** 3 the **destruction** of a wetland 4 a major **reduction**
5 dispose **of these batteries** 6 natural **environment** 7 badly **polluted** 8 **environmentally friendly**

4 Environmental action plan

1 **emissions** 2 **efficiency** 3 **renewable energy** 4 **carbon offset** 5 **overfishing** 6 **conservation** 7 **habitat loss**
8 **soil erosion** 9 **waste disposal** 10 **landfill**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 Industrial discharge and untreated sewage. 2 Treat wastewater. 3 To filter runoff and provide habitat.
4 Water improved and fish returned. 5 Drains overflow and pollutants enter the river. 6 Problems remain and several systems must keep working.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 **Overfishing** prevents stocks from recovering. 2 Most rubbish goes to **landfill**. 3 The farm is suffering soil **erosion**. 4 The company bought a carbon **offset**.

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check word families, feasibility and measurable outcomes.