Environmental problems

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

UPPER-INTERMEDIATE | B2

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each environmental-policy term with its meaning.

1 mitigation	____	a adjusting systems to actual or expected impacts
2 adaptation	____	b misleading impression that an activity is environmentally sound
3 carbon sink	____	c benefits people obtain from functioning ecosystems
4 feedback loop	____	d evaluation of impacts from production through disposal
5 biodiversity loss	____	e action to reduce causes or severity of climate change
6 ecosystem services	____	f system designed to retain materials and minimise waste
7 circular economy	____	g process in which an initial change reinforces or reduces itself
8 environmental justice	____	h decline in variety of genes, species and ecosystems
9 greenwashing	____	i reservoir that absorbs more carbon than it releases
10 life-cycle assessment	____	j fair distribution of environmental benefits, harms and participation

2 Complete the analytical collocations.

adaptation | assessment | economy | justice | loss | mitigation | services | sink

1 pursue emissions _____

2 finance climate _____

3 restore a natural carbon _____

4 halt biodiversity _____

5 value ecosystem _____

6 move towards a circular _____

7 advance environmental _____

8 conduct a life-cycle _____

3 Choose the most precise term for the context.

1 Installing solar panels to reduce emissions: *mitigation / adaptation*.

2 Raising homes above future flood levels: *adaptation / mitigation*.

3 A forest absorbs more CO2 than it emits: *carbon sink / offset market*.

4 Melting ice exposes darker water, which absorbs more heat: *feedback loop / life cycle*.

5 Pollination and water purification: *ecosystem services / biodiversity loss*.

6 Products are repaired and materials reused: *circular economy / linear economy*.

7 Poor communities carry disproportionate pollution: *environmental justice / conservation*.

8 A vague green label hides rising emissions: *greenwashing / mitigation*.

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4 Complete the sustainability assessment with terms from the box.

adaptation | biodiversity loss | carbon sink | circular economy | ecosystem services | environmental justice | feedback loop | greenwashing | life-cycle assessment | mitigation

The strategy separates emissions **1** _____ from climate **2** _____. Restored peatland can act as a **3** _____ and protect **4** _____ such as water regulation. This may slow **5** _____. Product redesign supports a **6** _____, while a **7** _____ compares impacts from raw materials to disposal. Claims without evidence risk **8** _____. The plan also considers **9** _____ and monitors a possible warming **10** _____.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Adaptation for whom?

A flood barrier may reduce risk for one neighbourhood while redirecting water towards another. Green space can cool a city, yet nearby rents may rise and displace lower-income residents. Adaptation should therefore be evaluated not only by total benefits but also by their distribution. Inclusive planning asks who is exposed, who decides, who pays and who gains. It also monitors unintended effects over time. An effective measure is not automatically a just one; environmental justice requires meaningful participation and protection for groups with fewer resources.

1 How can a barrier transfer risk? _____

2 What unintended effect may follow new green space? _____

3 What two dimensions should evaluation consider? _____

4 Name two questions inclusive planning asks. _____

5 Why is monitoring needed? _____

6 What does environmental justice require? _____

6 Rewrite using the expression in capitals.

1 The company gives a false impression of environmental progress. **GREENWASHING** ___

2 The wetland removes more carbon than it releases. **SINK** _____

3 The design keeps materials in use for longer. **CIRCULAR** _____

4 The study measures impacts from extraction to disposal. **LIFE-CYCLE** ___

OVER TO YOU

Write a **120-150 word** evaluation of an environmental policy or project. Discuss mitigation or adaptation, evidence, distributional effects, possible unintended consequences and monitoring.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Distinguish mitigation from adaptation. [ ] Evaluate effectiveness and fairness separately.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Environmental-policy terms

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

2 Analytical collocations

1 **mitigation** 2 **adaptation** 3 **sink** 4 **loss** 5 **services** 6 **economy** 7 **justice** 8 **assessment**

3 Precise terms

1 **mitigation** 2 **adaptation** 3 **carbon sink** 4 **feedback loop**
5 **ecosystem services** 6 **circular economy** 7 **environmental justice** 8 **greenwashing**

4 Sustainability assessment

1 **mitigation** 2 **adaptation** 3 **carbon sink** 4 **ecosystem services** 5 **biodiversity loss** 6 **circular economy** 7 **life-cycle assessment** 8 **greenwashing** 9 **environmental justice** 10 **feedback loop**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 It can redirect water elsewhere. 2 Rents may rise and residents may be displaced. 3 Total benefits and their distribution.
4 Any two: who is exposed, decides, pays or gains. 5 To identify unintended effects. 6 Meaningful participation and protection for less-resourced groups.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 The claim is **greenwashing**. 2 The wetland is a carbon **sink**. 3 The design supports a **circular economy**. 4 The study is a **life-cycle assessment**.

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check conceptual accuracy, evidence, distribution and unintended consequences.