



Course Overview – Section A: The Coastal Environment

This summary is designed to help you make your revision cards. It covers the main areas of the course but by no means is all the detail here. The best revision cards will have individual knowledge from your books and independent study that you can classify into the broad categories below.

1. Why are some coastal areas a valuable economic and environmental resource?

Southampton – A multi-use area

Dubai – How the coast encourages economic development

Great Barrier Reef – An example of conflicting demands on the coast

2. How are weathering and erosion different?

4 types of weathering

4 types of erosion

3. Coastal landforms

Hard Coastlines - Headlands, bays, wave-cut platforms, caves, arches, stacks and stumps

Soft Coastlines – Slumped coastlines, landslides, mudfalls.

4. How do waves shape the coast?

Constructive waves - Longshore Drift, beaches, spits and bars

Destructive waves

5. Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs)

Why do we manage coastal areas? Do all areas need protection? Who decides this?

6. Hard or soft engineering?

Strategies of hard and soft engineering – Advantages and disadvantages.

Protecting fragile coastal environments – Coral

7. ICZMs – How can coastal management be sustainable?

The Mediterranean ICZM – Pressures and strategies

8. Protecting coastal areas from the increasing risk of erosion and flooding

When and why is managed retreat an option?

The Thames Flood Barrier – Why is it there?

What is the RESPONSE Project?

