The environment

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Tick the correct category for each environment word.

Word | Problem | Solution | Measurement | Concept

1 carbon footprint [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
2 deforestation [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
3 biodiversity [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
4 greenhouse gas [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
5 offset emissions [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
6 renewable source [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
7 carbon neutral [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
8 waste management [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

2 Correct the mistake in each sentence.

1 We should reduce our carbon of footprint. _____
2 Deforestation destroy many habitats. _____
3 The region has rich biodiversity of species. _____
4 Greenhouse gases trap heat in atmosphere. _____
5 They offset their emissions by plant trees. _____
6 Solar power is renewable of source. _____
7 The company aims to become carbon of neutral. _____
8 Waste management is important for city. _____

3 Choose the more suitable description.

1 For the total greenhouse gases caused by a person: carbon footprint / footpath.
2 For clearing forests, often permanently: deforestation / afforestation.
3 For the variety of living species in an area: biodiversity / uniformity.
4 For gases that trap heat in the atmosphere: greenhouse gases / clean air.
5 For balancing emissions with equivalent reductions elsewhere: offsetting / ignoring.
6 For producing no net carbon emissions: carbon neutral / carbon intensive.

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4 Complete the reports with words from the box.

biodiversity | carbon footprint | carbon neutral | deforestation | greenhouse gases | offset | renewable | waste management

Report A: The company measured its 1 _____ and pledged to become 2 _____ within five years by investing in 3 _____ energy and planting trees to 4 _____ remaining emissions.
Report B: Scientists warned that continued 5 _____ threatens local 6 _____, putting hundreds of species at risk.
Report C: The city improved its 7 _____ system, reducing landfill waste and cutting harmful 8 _____ released from decomposing rubbish.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Small actions, big impact

Individual actions such as recycling or reducing car use are often criticised as insufficient compared with the scale of global environmental challenges. However, environmental researchers argue that personal choices can still matter, both directly and by shaping broader social norms. When enough individuals adopt eco-friendly habits, businesses and governments often respond by expanding sustainable options, from renewable energy to better waste management. Critics counter that placing too much focus on individual responsibility can distract from the greater impact of industrial emissions and corporate policy, suggesting that meaningful progress requires both personal action and systemic change.

1 What are individual actions often criticised as? _____
2 What do environmental researchers argue personal choices can do? _____
3 What often happens when enough individuals adopt eco-friendly habits? _____
4 What do critics counter about focusing too much on individual responsibility? _____
5 What does meaningful progress require, according to the text? _____
6 Does the text suggest individual action alone is enough? _____

6 Rewrite each phrase using the word in capitals.

1 The total emissions a person causes. FOOTPRINT _____
2 Forests are being cleared at a fast rate. DEFORESTATION _____
3 The company produces no net carbon emissions. CARBON NEUTRAL _____
4 The area has a wide variety of species. BIODIVERSITY _____

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OVER TO YOU

Write a 100-120 word account of how individuals and companies can work together to reduce environmental impact. Include specific examples.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Include polite, precise wording. [ ] Organise the account clearly.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Categories

1 Measurement 2 Problem 3 Concept 4 Problem 5 Solution 6 Solution 7 Concept 8 Solution

2 Corrections

1 our carbon footprint 2 destroys many habitats 3 rich biodiversity 4 in the atmosphere
5 by planting trees 6 a renewable source 7 carbon neutral 8 important for the city

3 Suitable descriptions

1 carbon footprint 2 deforestation 3 biodiversity 4 greenhouse gases 5 offsetting 6 carbon neutral

4 Reports

1 carbon footprint 2 carbon neutral 3 renewable 4 offset 5 deforestation 6 biodiversity
7 waste management 8 greenhouse gases

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 Insufficient compared with the scale of global environmental challenges.
2 Matter, both directly and by shaping broader social norms.
3 Businesses and governments often respond by expanding sustainable options.
4 It can distract from the greater impact of industrial emissions and corporate policy.
5 Both personal action and systemic change.
6 No.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 That's their carbon footprint. 2 There is rapid deforestation. 3 The company is carbon neutral.
4 The area has rich biodiversity.

Over to you

Answers will vary. Check range, respectful register and clear organisation.