Physical geography

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

UPPER-INTERMEDIATE | B2

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each geomorphological term with its meaning.

1 watershed	____	a river or stream flowing into a larger one
2 drainage basin	____	b underground layer that stores and carries water
3 tributary	____	c wearing away and removal of rock or soil
4 meander	____	d land from which water drains into one river system
5 floodplain	____	e broad flat land beside a river that may flood
6 erosion	____	f large moving section of Earth's outer shell
7 deposition	____	g boundary separating neighbouring drainage basins
8 tectonic plate	____	h crack or zone where blocks of crust move
9 fault line	____	i bend formed in a river channel
10 aquifer	____	j settling and accumulation of transported material

2 Complete the process collocations.

basin | **deposition** | **erosion** | **line** | **plain** | **plate** | **recharge** | **runoff**

1 map a drainage _____

2 increase surface _____

3 accelerate soil _____

4 promote sediment _____

5 restore a natural flood_____

6 monitor a tectonic _____

7 cross an active fault _____

8 protect an aquifer's _____ zone

3 Choose the most precise term for the context.

1 A smaller river joins the main channel: *tributary / watershed*.

2 A ridge separates two river systems: *watershed / floodplain*.

3 A looping bend develops in a lowland river: *meander / fault line*.

4 Sand settles where water loses energy: *deposition / erosion*.

5 A cliff retreats as waves remove rock: *erosion / deposition*.

6 Water is stored in permeable rock underground: *aquifer / drainage basin*.

7 Two crustal blocks move past one another: *fault line / tributary*.

8 A continent rests on a moving slab: *tectonic plate / floodplain*.

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4 Complete the catchment analysis with terms from the box.

aquifer | deposition | drainage basin | erosion | fault line | floodplain | meander | tectonic plate | tributary | watershed

The mountain ridge forms a **1** _____ around the upper **2** _____. A steep **3** _____ joins the main river below. Farther downstream, each **4** _____ migrates across the **5** _____ as outer-bank **6** _____ and inner-bank **7** _____ reshape the channel. Beneath the valley, an **8** _____ stores groundwater. The region also lies near a **9** _____ at the edge of a moving **10** _____.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Making room for a river

Traditional flood defence often confines a river between high embankments. This protects selected areas, but it can speed water downstream and disconnect the channel from its floodplain. Some catchment plans now restore wetlands, remove barriers and allow controlled flooding on suitable land. These measures store water, trap sediment and create habitat. They do not eliminate risk, and they require agreement about which land can flood. Their value lies in managing the whole drainage basin rather than defending each location separately.

1 What do high embankments do? _____

2 What two problems may they create? _____

3 Name two measures used in newer plans. _____

4 Give two benefits of these measures. _____

5 Why can implementation be difficult? _____

6 What broader scale do the plans consider? _____

6 Rewrite using the expression in capitals.

1 All rainfall here drains into the same river. **BASIN** _____

2 The river bend is gradually moving sideways. **MEANDER** _____

3 Material accumulates on the inside of the bend. **DEPOSITION** _____

4 Groundwater is held in permeable rock. **AQUIFER** _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a **120-150 word** analysis of a river basin, coast or tectonic landscape. Explain its main features, the processes shaping it, one hazard and one management response.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Distinguish features from processes. [ ] Link management decisions to evidence and trade-offs.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Geomorphological terms

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

2 Process collocations

1 **basin** 2 **runoff** 3 **erosion** 4 **deposition** 5 **plain** 6 **plate** 7 **line** 8 **recharge**

3 Precise terms

1 **tributary** 2 **watershed** 3 **meander** 4 **deposition**
5 **erosion** 6 **aquifer** 7 **fault line** 8 **tectonic plate**

4 Catchment analysis

1 **watershed** 2 **drainage basin** 3 **tributary** 4 **meander** 5 **floodplain** 6 **erosion** 7 **deposition** 8 **aquifer** 9 **fault line** 10 **tectonic plate**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 They confine the river. 2 They can speed water downstream and disconnect the floodplain. 3 Any two: restore wetlands, remove barriers, allow controlled flooding.
4 Any two: store water, trap sediment, create habitat. 5 People must agree which land can flood. 6 The whole drainage basin.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 The area forms one drainage **basin**. 2 The **meander** is migrating sideways. 3 **Deposition** occurs inside the bend. 4 An **aquifer** stores the groundwater.

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check process accuracy, causal reasoning and an evidence-based management response.