US English

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each US English term with its meaning.

1 freshman	____	a average measure of academic grades
2 sophomore	____	b student in the first year of high school or college
3 major	____	c head of a school
4 GPA	____	d main subject studied at college
5 semester	____	e document summarising education and work experience
6 public school	____	f one of two main teaching periods in an academic year
7 principal	____	g school funded by government
8 resume	____	h student in the second year of high school or college

2 Complete the US education and work collocations.

freshman | GPA | major | principal | public | resume | semester | sophomore

1 a college _____

2 a second-year _____

3 choose a _____

4 calculate your _____

5 the spring _____

6 attend a _____ school

7 meet the school _____

8 submit a _____

3 Choose the expression suitable in a US context.

1 A first-year college student is a *freshman / fresher*.

2 Her main college subject is her *major / course speciality*.

3 The school head is the *principal / head teacher*.

4 A government-funded school is a *public school / state school* in US usage.

5 Grades are often summarised as a *GPA / marks average*.

6 Students may divide the year into two *semesters / terms only*.

7 A job applicant sends a *resume / CV only* in common US usage.

8 A second-year student may be called a *sophomore / junior beginner*.

4 Complete the student profile with words from the box.

freshman | GPA | major | principal | public school | resume | semester | sophomore

Jordan attended a local **1** _____. As a **2** _____, he joined the science club; as a **3** _____, he became its secretary. The **4** _____ wrote him a recommendation. At college, he chose biology as his **5** _____. His first **6** _____ was demanding, but he earned a strong **7** _____. He has now prepared a **8** _____ for a summer internship.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Words carry systems with them

A regional term may reflect more than a vocabulary preference. Freshman and sophomore belong to the organisation of US secondary and higher education. Public school is especially easy to misunderstand: in the US it normally means a government-funded school, whereas British usage may refer to an elite fee-paying institution. Good communication therefore requires contextual translation, not simple word replacement.

1 What may a regional term reflect? _____

2 Which system uses freshman and sophomore? _____

3 What does public school usually mean in the US? _____

4 What can it mean in Britain? _____

5 Why can the phrase be misunderstood? _____

6 What does good communication require? _____

6 Rewrite for a US audience.

1 She is a first-year university student. _____

2 His main subject is economics. _____

3 Send your CV by Friday. _____

4 The head teacher welcomed families. _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a **100-120 word** profile of a student applying for a US college or internship. Use education and employment vocabulary accurately.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Make the institutional context clear. [ ] Avoid simple word-for-word translation.

ANSWER KEY

1 US education and work terms

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

2 Collocations

1 **freshman** 2 **sophomore** 3 **major** 4 **GPA** 5 **semester** 6 **public** 7 **principal** 8 **resume**

3 US-context choices

1 **freshman** 2 **major** 3 **principal** 4 **public school**
5 **GPA** 6 **semesters** 7 **resume** 8 **sophomore**

4 Student profile

1 **public school** 2 **freshman** 3 **sophomore** 4 **principal** 5 **major** 6 **semester** 7 **GPA** 8 **resume**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 A different institutional system. 2 US secondary/higher education. 3 A government-funded school.
4 An elite fee-paying school. 5 The systems differ. 6 Contextual translation.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 She is a college **freshman**. 2 His **major** is economics. 3 Send your **resume** by Friday. 4 The **principal** welcomed families.

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check institutional accuracy and contextual clarity.