

AQA Geography

Coastal Systems and Landscapes

Definition Flashcards

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Abrasion



Abrasion

A form of erosion where loose material 'sandpapers' the walls and floors of the river, cliff or glacier



Backshore



Backshore

The upper beach closest to the land,
including any cliffs or sand dunes



Beach Morphology



Beach Morphology

The surface shape of the beach



Coastal Recession



Coastal Recession

The retreat of a coastline due to erosion, sea-level rise or submergence.



Concordant Coast



Concordant Coast

A coastline where bands of alternate geology run parallel to the coast.



Dalmatian Coast



Dalmatian Coast

A concordant coastline with several river valleys running perpendicular to the coast. They become flooded to produce parallel long islands and long inlets



DEFRA's 1:1 Cost-Benefit Analysis



DEFRA's 1:1 Cost-Benefit Analysis

The evaluation of a coastal town's economic value compared to the cost of the management required.



Discordant Coast



Discordant Coast

A coastline where bands of alternate geology run perpendicular to the shore



Dynamic Equilibrium



Dynamic Equilibrium

Where a natural system tries to achieve a balance by making constant changes in response to a constantly changing system.



Emergent Coast



Emergent Coast

A coastline that is advancing relative to the sea level at the time.



Eustatic



Eustatic

Global changes to sea levels.



Foreshore



Foreshore

The lower part of the beach covered twice a day at high tide (the part of the beach that receives the most regular wave action)



Freeze Thaw



Freeze Thaw

A form of physical sub-aerial weathering where water freezes in the cracks of a rock, expands and enlarges the crack, therefore weakens the rock.



Geology



Geology

The structure and arrangement of a rock.



Glacial Erosion



Glacial Erosion

The removal of loose material by glacier ice, involving plucking, abrasion, crushing and basal meltwater.
(necessary in the formation of Fjords)



Grading



Grading

The layering of sediments based on their size



High-energy environment



High-energy environment

A coast where wave action is predominantly large destructive waves, causing much erosion.



Impermeable



Impermeable

A rock that does not allow rainwater to pass through.



Isostatic



Isostatic

A change in local coastline or land height relative to the sea level.



Littoral Cell



Littoral Cell

A section of the coast, within which involves much sediment movement. A littoral cell is not a closed system.



Permeable



Permeable

A rock that allows rainwater to pass through it.



Plant succession



Plant succession

Change to a plant community due to growing conditions adapting (eg. sand dunes and salt marshes)



Subaerial Processes



Subaerial Processes

The combination of mass movement and weathering that affects the coastal land above sea.



Submergent Coast



Submergent Coast

A coast that is sinking relative to the sea level of the time.



Till



Till

Deposits of angular rock fragments in a finer medium.

