International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Environmental Systems and Societies · HL

Glossary · every term in the course, A–Z

English

abiotic factor
/ˌæbɪˈɒtɪk ˈfæktə/
acid deposition

adaptation
/ˌædæpˈteɪʃn/
age-sex pyramid

agroforestry

albedo

ammonification
/əˌmɒnɪfɪˈkeɪʃn/
anthropocentric

antinatalist

aquaculture
/ˈækwəkʌltʃə/
aquifer

assimilation
/əˌsɪmɪˈleɪʃn/
atmosphere
/ˈætməsfɪə/
background extinction rate

biocapacity
/ˌbaɪəʊkəˈpæsɪti/
biocentric

biochemical oxygen demand

biodiversity
/ˌbaɪəʊdaɪˈvɜːsɪti/

English

biodiversity hotspot

biogeochemical cycle

biomagnification
/ˌbaɪəʊˌmægnɪfɪˈkeɪʃn/
biomass
/ˌbaɪəʊˈmæs/
biome
/ˈbaɪəʊm/
biotic factor
/baɪˈɒtɪk ˈfæktə/
biotic index

boundary
/ˈbaʊndəri/
buffer strip

buffer zone

bycatch
/ˈbaɪkætʃ/
cap and trade

captive breeding
/ˈkæptɪv ˈbriːdɪŋ/
capture–mark–release–recapture

carbon capture and storage

carbon tax

carrying capacity
/ˈkærɪŋ kəˈpæsɪti/
carrying capacity
/ˈkærɪŋ kəˈpæsɪti/
case law

central environmental inspection

chlorofluorocarbon

English

circular economy
/ˈsɜːkjʊlə ɪˈkɒnəmi/
CITES

clade
/kleɪd/
climate
/ˈklaɪmət/
climate change
/ˈklaɪmət tʃeɪndʒ/
climax community
/ˈklaɪmæks kəˈmjuːnɪti/
command and control

commercial farming
/kəˈmɜːʃl ˈfɑːmɪŋ/
common but differentiated responsibility

common resource
/ˈkɒmən rɪˈzɔːs/
community
/kəˈmjuːnɪti/
competition
/ˌkɒmpəˈtɪʃn/
composting
/ˈkɒmpɒstɪŋ/
condensation
/kɒndenˈseɪʃn/
consequentialism
/ˌkɒnsɪˈkwenʃɪəlɪzəm/
consumer
/kənˈsuːmə/
contingent valuation

contour ploughing
/ˈkɒntʊə ˈplaʊɪŋ/
controlled variable
/kənˈtrəʊld ˈveərɪəbl/

English

convention on Biological Diversity

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

coral bleaching
/ˈkɒrəl ˈbliːtʃɪŋ/
correlation
/ˌkɒrɪˈleɪʃn/
corridor

corruption

cost-benefit analysis
/kɒst ˈbenɪfɪt əˈnæləsɪs/
counter-urbanisation

cover crop

crop rotation
/krɒp rəʊˈteɪʃn/
crude birth rate
/kruːd bɜːθ reɪt/
crude death rate
/kruːd deθ reɪt/
customary international law

customary rule

daily penalty

Data Deficient

dead zone

decomposer
/ˌdiːkəmˈpəʊzə/
decoupling

deep ecology

degrowth

English
demographic transition model /ˌdemə'græfɪk træn'sɪʃn 'mɒdl/
denitrification /di:ˌnaɪtrɪfɪ'keɪʃn/
density-dependent factor
density-independent factor
deontology /di:ən'tɒlədʒi/
dependency ratio /dɪ'pendənsi 'reɪʃɪəʊ/
dependent variable /dɪ'pendənt 'veərɪəbl/
desalination /dɪˌsælɪ'neɪʃn/
descriptive
desertification /dɪˌzɜ:tɪfɪ'keɪʃn/
dichotomous key /daɪ'kɒtəməs ki:/
discount rate /'dɪskaʊnt reɪt/
disease /dɪ'zi:z/
displacement /dɪ'spleɪsmənt/
distributive justice
doubling time /'dʌblɪŋ taɪm/
doughnut economics
dynamic equilibrium /daɪ'næmɪk ˌi:kwɪ'lɪbrɪəm/
eating lower in the food chain
eco-compensation
ecocentric

English
ecocide
ecological civilisation
ecological economics
ecological efficiency
ecological footprint /ˌekə'lɒdʒɪkl 'fʊtprɪnt/
ecological red line
ecological restoration
economic water scarcity
ecosystem /'i:kəʊsɪstəm/
ecosystem service
edge effect
El Niño /el 'ni:njəʊ/
electronic waste
emigration /ˌemɪ'greɪʃn/
emissions trading
emissions trading scheme
endemic species
energy mix
energy security
enforcement /en'fɔ:smənt/
enhanced greenhouse effect /en'hænst 'gri:nhaʊs ɪ'fekt/
entropy /'entrəpi/

English

environmental economics

environmental ethics

environmental impact assessment

environmental justice
/enˌvaɪrənˈmentl ˈdʒʌstɪs/

environmental Kuznets curve

environmental law

environmental public interest litigation

environmental value system

erosion
/ɪˈrəʊʒn/

eutrophication
/ˌjuːtrəfɪˈkeɪʃn/

evaporation
/ɪˌvæpəˈreɪʃn/

evapotranspiration

evenness
/ˈiːvənnəs/

evolution
/ɪvəˈluːʃn/

exponential growth
/ˌekspəˈnenʃl grəʊθ/

extensive farming

externality
/ekˈstɜːnælɪti/

feedback
/ˈfiːdbæk/

flagship species

flow
/fləʊ/

flow
/fləʊ/

English

food chain
/fuːd tʃeɪn/

food security
/fuːd sɪˈkjʊərɪti/

food web
/fuːd web/

fragmentation
/ˌfrægmənˈteɪʃn/

frequency
/ˈfriːkwənsi/

functional unit
/ˈfʌŋkʃənl ˈjuːnɪt/

fundamental niche

genetic diversity
/dʒɪˈnetɪk daɪˈvɜːsɪti/

geoengineering

geographical isolation

global common

grain for Green

Great Smog of London

green growth

Green Revolution
/griːn ˌrevəˈluːʃn/

greenhouse effect
/ˈgriːnhaʊs ɪˈfekt/

greenhouse gas
/ˈgriːnhaʊs gæs/

greywater

gross domestic product
/grəʊs dəˈmestɪk ˈprɒdʌkt/

gross ecosystem product

gross primary productivity
/grəʊs ˈpraɪməri ˌprɒdəkˈtɪvɪti/

English
gross secondary productivity
Haber process /ˈheɪbə ˈprəʊses/
habitat /ˈhæbɪtæt/
habitat diversity
habitat loss /ˈhæbɪtæt lɒs/
hard law
herbivory
high Seas Treaty
high-yielding variety
horizon
humus /ˈhjuːməs/
hydroelectric /ˌhaɪdrəʊɪˈlektrɪk/
hydrological cycle
hypothesis /haɪˈpɒθəsɪs/
ice-albedo feedback
immigration /ˌɪmɪˈgreɪʃn/
impermeable surface
incineration /ɪnˌsɪnəˈreɪʃn/
independent variable /ˌɪndɪˈpendənt ˈveərɪəbl/
indicator /ˈɪndɪkeɪtə/
indicator species /ˈɪndɪkeɪtə ˈspiːsiːz/

English
indigenous /ɪnˈdɪdʒənəs/
infiltration
informal settlement
information /ˌɪnfəˈmeɪʃn/
informed consent /ɪnˈfɔːmd kənˈsent/
instrumental value
integrated pest management /ˈɪntɪgreɪtɪd pest ˈmænɪdʒmənt/
intensive farming /ɪnˈtensɪv ˈfɑːmɪŋ/
inter-tropical convergence zone
intergenerational equity
intermittent /ˌɪntəˈmɪtənt/
intrinsic value /ɪnˈtrɪnsɪk ˈvæljuː/
invasive species /ɪnˈveɪsɪv ˈspiːsiːz/
jurisdiction /ˌdʒʊərɪsˈdɪkʃn/
keystone species /ˈkiːstəʊn ˈspiːsiːz/
kigali Amendment
kite diagram
kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
Lake Tai
landfill /ˈlændfɪl/

English

leachate
/ˈliːtʃeɪt/
leaching

legal person

liability
/ˌlaɪəˈbɪlɪti/
life cycle assessment
/laɪf ˈsaɪkl əˈsesmənt/
limiting factor
/ˈlɪmɪtɪŋ ˈfæktə/
Lincoln index

loam
/ləʊm/
local protectionism

long-wave radiation

loss and damage

marine protected area

market failure
/ˈmɑːkɪt ˈfeɪlɪə/
market-based instrument

mass extinction

maximum sustainable yield

megacity
/ˈmegəsɪti/
microplastics
/ˌmaɪkrəʊˈplæstɪks/
mitigation
/ˌmɪtɪˈgeɪʃn/
model
/ˈmɒdl/
monoculture
/ˈmɒnəʊkʌltʃə/
Montreal Protocol
/ˌmɒntrɪˈɔːl ˈprəʊtəkɒl/

English

moral standing

municipal solid waste

mutualism
/ˈmjuːtʃuːəlɪzəm/
natural capital

natural income

natural increase rate

natural resource

natural selection
/ˈnætʃərəl sɪˈlekʃn/
negative feedback
/ˈnegətɪv ˈfiːdbæk/
net primary productivity
/net ˈpraɪməri ˌprɒdəkˈtɪvɪti/
net secondary productivity

net zero

niche
/niːʃ/
nitrification
/ˌnaɪtrɪfɪˈkeɪʃn/
nitrogen fixation
/ˈnaɪtrədʒn fɪkˈseɪʃn/
non-point source

non-renewable
/nɒn rɪˈnjuːəbl/
normative
/ˈnɔːmətɪv/
nuclear
/ˈnjuːklɪə/
null hypothesis
/nʌl haɪˈpɒθəsɪs/
ocean acidification
/ˈəʊʃn əˌsɪdɪfɪˈkeɪʃn/

English

open system
/ˈəʊpən ˈsɪstəm/
overgrazing
/ˌəʊvəˈgreɪzɪŋ/
overharvesting
/ˌəʊvəˈhɑːvɪstɪŋ/
ozone
/ˈəʊzəʊn/
ozone hole

ozone layer
/ˈəʊzəʊn ˈleɪə/
ozone-depleting substance

parasitism
/ˈpærəsɪtɪzəm/
Paris Agreement

particulate matter
/pəˈtɪkjʊleɪt ˈmætə/
payment for ecosystem service

percentage cover

percolation

permafrost

perspective
/pəˈspektɪv/
photochemical smog
/ˌfəʊtəʊˈkemɪkl smɒg/
photosynthesis
/ˌfəʊtəʊˈsɪnθəsɪs/
physical water scarcity

pigouvian tax
/pɪˈguːvɪən tæks/
pioneer species
/paɪəˈnɪə ˈspiːsiːz/
plagioclimax

English

planetary boundary

point source
/pɔɪnt sɔːs/
pollutant load
/pəˈluːtənt ləʊd/
polluter pays principle

pollution
/pəˈluːʃn/
polyculture

population
/ˌpɒpjʊˈleɪʃn/
population density
/ˌpɒpjʊˈleɪʃn ˈdensɪti/
porosity
/pɔːˈrɒsɪti/
positive feedback
/ˈpɒzɪtɪv ˈfiːdbæk/
precautionary principle

predation
/prɪˈdeɪʃn/
prevention principle

primary pollutant

primary succession
/ˈpraɪməri səkˈseʃn/
procedural justice

producer
/prəˈdjuːsə/
productivity
/ˌprɒdəkˈtɪvɪti/
pronatalist

protected area

public good
/ˈpʌblɪk gʊd/
public participation

English
pull factor
push factor /pʊʃ ˈfæktə/
pyramid of biomass
pyramid of numbers
pyramid of productivity
quadrat /ˈkwɒdræt/
questionnaire
quota /ˈkwəʊtə/
ramsar Convention
random /ˈrændəm/
random error /ˈrændəm ˈerə/
random sampling /ˈrændəm ˈsæmplɪŋ/
range of tolerance /reɪndʒ ɒv ˈtɒlərəns/
rare earth element
ratify
realised niche
rebound effect
rebound effect
reciprocity /rɪsɪˈprɒsɪti/
recycling
Red List
red tide

English
regulation /ˌregjʊˈleɪʃn/
reintroduction
reliability /rɪˌlaɪəˈbɪlɪti/
renewable /rɪˈnjuːəbl/
replacement level /rɪˈpleɪsmənt ˈlevl/
representative /ˌreprɪˈzentətɪv/
reproductive strategy
research question /rɪˈsɜːtʃ ˈkwestʃn/
residence time
resilience /rɪˈsɪlɪəns/
resource /rɪˈzɔːs/
resource security
respiration /ˌrespɪˈreɪʃn/
rewilding
salinisation
sample /ˈsæmpl/
secondary pollutant
secondary succession /ˈsekəndəri səkˈseʃn/
seed bank /siːd bæŋk/
seral stage
sere
short-wave radiation

English

sigmoid curve

Simpson's reciprocal index

sink
/sɪŋk/
social cost
/'səʊʃl kɒst/
social cost of carbon

soft law

soil
/sɔɪl/
soil degradation

soil texture

solar
/'səʊlə/
source
/sɔːs/
sovereign

spearman's rank
correlation coefficient
/'spɪəmənz ræŋk ˌkɒrɪ'leɪʃn ˌkəʊɪ'fɪʃənt/
speciation
/ˌspiːʃɪ'eɪʃn/
species
/'spiːsiːz/
species diversity

species richness
/'spiːsiːz 'rɪtʃnəs/
sponge city

standard deviation
/'stændəd ˌdiːvɪ'eɪʃn/
statute

steady-state economy

English

steady-state equilibrium

stock
/stɒk/
storage
/'stɔːrɪdʒ/
stratified sampling
/'strætɪfaɪd 'sæmplɪŋ/
stratosphere
/'strætəsfɪə/
strong sustainability

subsistence farming
/sʌb'sɪstəns 'fɑːmɪŋ/
substitution
/ˌsʌbstɪ'tjuːʃn/
succession
/sək'seʃn/
survivorship curve
/sə'vaɪvəʃɪp kɜːv/
sustainability
/səˌsteɪnə'bɪlɪti/
sustainable city

sustainable development
/sə'steɪnəbl dɪ'veləpmənt/
sustainable intensification

sweet wormwood

system
/'sɪstəm/
systematic
/ˌsɪstə'mætɪk/
systematic error
/ˌsɪstə'mætɪk 'erə/
systematic sampling
/ˌsɪstə'mætɪk 'sæmplɪŋ/
technocentric

tectonic plate
/tek'tɒnɪk pleɪt/

English

temperature inversion

terracing
/ˈterɪsɪŋ/
the Way follows nature

thermal pollution
/ˈθɜːml pəˈluːʃn/
thermohaline circulation

tipping point

topsoil

total economic value

total fertility rate
/ˈtəʊtl fɜːˈtɪlɪti reɪt/
tragedy of the commons
/ˈtrædʒədi ɒvðə ˈkɒmənz/
transboundary

transect
/trænˈsekt/
transfer
/ˈtrænsfɜː/
transformation
/trænsfɔːˈmeɪʃn/
transpiration
/trænspəˈreɪʃn/
treaty

tricellular model

trophic level
/ˈtrəʊfɪk ˈlevl/
troposphere
/ˈtrɒpəsfɪə/
tropospheric ozone

ultraviolet
/ˌʊltrəˈvaɪəlɪt/
UN Convention on the Law
of the Sea

English

UN Framework Convention
on Climate Change

uncertainty
/ʌnˈsɜːtənti/
unity of heaven and
humanity

upwelling
/ˈʌpwəlɪŋ/
urban heat island
/ˈɜːbən hiːt ˈaɪlənd/
urban planning

urban sprawl
/ˈɜːbən sprɔːl/
urbanisation
/ˌɜːbənaɪˈzeɪʃn/
validity
/væˈlɪdɪti/
value
/ˈvæljuː/
virtual water

virtue ethics
/ˈvɜːtʃuː ˈeθɪks/
volatile organic compound

waste hierarchy

water footprint

water security
/ˈwɔːtə sɪˈkjʊərɪti/
water stress
/ˈwɔːtə stres/
weak monitoring

weak sustainability

weather
/ˈweðə/
weathering
/ˈweðərɪŋ/

English
willingness to pay /ˈwɪlɪŋnəs tə peɪ/
wind /wɪnd/
worldview
yangtze River Protection Law
yield /jiːld/
zonation