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

Glossary · every term in the course, A–Z

English

abiotic factor
/ˌæbɪˈɒtɪk ˈfæktə/
acid deposition

adaptation
/əˌdæpˈteɪʃn/
age-sex pyramid

agroforestry

albedo

ammonification
/əˌmæməˌnɪfɪˈkeɪʃn/
anthropocentric

antinatalist

aquaculture
/ˈækwəkʌltʃə/
aquifer

assimilation
/əˌsɪmɪˈleɪʃn/
atmosphere
/ˈætməsfɪə/
background extinction rate

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

carbon capture and storage

carbon tax

carrying capacity
/ˈkærɪŋ kəˈpæsɪti/
carrying capacity
/ˈkærɪŋ kəˈpæsɪti/
chlorofluorocarbon

circular economy
/ˈsɜːkjʊlə ɪˈkɒnəmi/
climate
/ˈklaɪmət/
climate change
/ˈklaɪmət tʃeɪndʒ/

English

climax community
/ˈklaɪmæks kəˈmjuːnɪti/
commercial farming
/kəˈmɜːʃl ˈfɑːmɪŋ/
common resource
/ˈkɒmən rɪˈzɔːs/
community
/kəˈmjuːnɪti/
competition
/ˌkɒmpəˈtɪʃn/
composting
/ˈkɒmpɒstɪŋ/
condensation
/kɒndenˈseɪʃn/
consumer
/kənˈsuːmə/
contour ploughing
/ˈkɒntʊə ˈplaʊɪŋ/
controlled variable
/kənˈtrəʊld ˈveərɪəbl/
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
coral bleaching
/ˈkɒrəl ˈbliːtʃɪŋ/
correlation
/ˌkɒrɪˈleɪʃn/
corridor

counter-urbanisation

cover crop

crop rotation
/krɒp rəʊˈteɪʃn/
crude birth rate
/kruːd bɜːθ reɪt/
crude death rate
/kruːd deθ reɪt/
Data Deficient

English

dead zone

decomposer
/ˌdiːkəmˈpəʊzə/
demographic transition model
/ˌdeməˈgræfɪk trænˈsɪʃn ˈmɒdl/
denitrification
/diːˌnaɪtrɪfɪˈkeɪʃn/
density-dependent factor

density-independent factor

dependency ratio
/dɪˈpendənsi ˈreɪʃiəʊ/
dependent variable
/dɪˈpendənt ˈveərɪəbl/
desalination
/dɪˌsælɪˈneɪʃn/
desertification
/dɪˌzɜːtɪfɪˈkeɪʃn/
dichotomous key
/daɪˈkɒtəməs kiː/
disease
/dɪˈziːz/
doubling time
/ˈdʌblɪŋ taɪm/
doughnut economics

dynamic equilibrium
/daɪˈnæmɪk ˌiːkwɪˈlɪbrɪəm/
eating lower in the food chain
ecocentric

ecological efficiency

ecological footprint
/ˌekəˈlɒdʒɪkl ˈfʊtprɪnt/
ecological restoration

economic water scarcity

English

ecosystem
/ˈiːkəʊsɪstəm/
ecosystem service

edge effect

El Niño
/el ˈniːnjəʊ/
electronic waste

emigration
/ˌemɪˈgreɪʃn/
emissions trading scheme

endemic species

energy mix

energy security

enhanced greenhouse effect
/enˈhænst ˈgriːnhaʊs ɪˈfekt/

entropy
/ˈentrəpi/
environmental impact assessment

environmental value system

erosion
/ɪˈrəʊʒn/
eutrophication
/ˌjuːtrəfɪˈkeɪʃn/
evaporation
/ɪˌvæpəˈreɪʃn/
evapotranspiration

evenness
/ˈiːvənnəs/
evolution
/ɪvəˈluːʃn/
exponential growth
/ˌekspəˈnenʃl ɡrəʊθ/

English

extensive farming

feedback
/ˈfiːdbæk/
flagship species

flow
/fləʊ/
flow
/fləʊ/
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

Great Smog of London

Green Revolution
/ɡriːn ˌrevəˈluːʃn/
greenhouse effect
/ˈɡriːnhaʊs ɪˈfekt/
greenhouse gas
/ˈɡriːnhaʊs ɡæs/
greywater

gross primary productivity
/ɡrəʊs ˈpraɪməri ˌprɒdəkˈtɪvɪti/

English

gross secondary productivity

Haber process
/'heɪbə 'prəʊses/

habitat
/'hæbɪtæt/

habitat diversity

habitat loss
/'hæbɪtæt lɒs/

herbivory

high-yielding variety

horizon

humus
/'hju:məs/

hydroelectric
/ˌhaɪdrəʊɪ'lektrɪk/

hydrological cycle

hypothesis
/haɪ'pɒθəsɪs/

ice-albedo feedback

immigration
/ˌɪmɪ'greɪʃn/

impermeable surface

incineration
/ɪnˌsɪnə'reɪʃn/

independent variable
/ˌɪndɪ'pendənt 'veərɪəbl/

indicator
/'ɪndɪkeɪtə/

indicator species
/'ɪndɪkeɪtə 'spi:si:z/

infiltration

informal settlement

English

informed consent
/ɪn'fɔ:md kən'sent/

instrumental value

integrated pest management
/'ɪntɪgreɪtɪd pest 'mænɪdʒmənt/

intensive farming
/ɪn'tensɪv 'fɑ:mɪŋ/

inter-tropical convergence zone

intermittent
/ˌɪntə'mɪtənt/

intrinsic value
/ɪn'trɪnsɪk 'vælju:/

invasive species
/ɪn'veɪsɪv 'spi:si:z/

keystone species
/'ki:stəʊn 'spi:si:z/

kite diagram

Lake Tai

landfill
/'lændfɪl/

leachate
/'li:tʃeɪt/

leaching

life cycle assessment
/laɪf 'saɪkl ə'sesmənt/

limiting factor
/'lɪmɪtɪŋ 'fæktə/

Lincoln index

loam
/ləʊm/

long-wave radiation

marine protected area

mass extinction

English

maximum sustainable yield

megacity
/'megəsɪti/
microplastics
/ˌmaɪkrəʊ'plæstɪks/
mitigation
/ˌmɪtɪ'geɪʃn/
model
/'mɒdl/
monoculture
/'mɒnəʊkʌltʃə/
Montreal Protocol
/ˌmɒntrɪ'ɔːl 'prəʊtəkɒl/
municipal solid waste

mutualism
/'mjuːtʃuːəlɪzəm/
natural capital

natural income

natural increase rate

natural resource

natural selection
/'nætʃərəl sɪ'lekʃn/
negative feedback
/'negətɪv 'fiːdbæk/
net primary productivity
/net 'praɪməri ˌprɒdək'tɪvɪti/
net secondary productivity

net zero

niche
/niːʃ/
nitrification
/ˌnaɪtrɪfɪ'keɪʃn/
nitrogen fixation
/'naɪtrədʒn fɪk'seɪʃn/

English

non-point source

non-renewable
/nɒn rɪ'njuːəbl/
nuclear
/'njuːklɪə/
null hypothesis
/nʌl haɪ'pɒθəsɪs/
ocean acidification
/'əʊʃn əˌsɪdɪfɪ'keɪʃn/
open system
/'əʊpən 'sɪstəm/
overgrazing
/ˌəʊvə'greɪzɪŋ/
overharvesting
/ˌəʊvə'hɑːvɪstɪŋ/
ozone
/'əʊzəʊn/
ozone hole

ozone layer
/'əʊzəʊn 'leɪə/
ozone-depleting substance

parasitism
/'pærəsɪtɪzəm/
Paris Agreement

particulate matter
/pə'tɪkjʊleɪt 'mætə/
percentage cover

percolation

permafrost

perspective
/pə'spektɪv/
photochemical smog
/ˌfəʊtəʊ'kemɪkl smɒg/
photosynthesis
/ˌfəʊtəʊ'sɪnθəsɪs/

English
physical water scarcity
pioneer species /paɪəˈnɪə ˈspiːsiːz/
plagioclimax
planetary boundary
point source /pɔɪnt sɔːs/
pollutant load /pəˈluːtənt ləʊd/
pollution /pəˈluːʃn/
polyculture
population /ˌpɒpjʊˈleɪʃn/
population density /ˌpɒpjʊˈleɪʃn ˈdensɪti/
positive feedback /ˈpɒzɪtɪv ˈfiːdbæk/
predation /prɪˈdeɪʃn/
primary pollutant
primary succession /ˈpraɪməri səkˈseʃn/
producer /prəˈdjuːsə/
productivity /ˌprɒdəkˈtɪvɪti/
pronatalist
protected area
pull factor
push factor /pʊʃ ˈfæktə/
pyramid of biomass
pyramid of numbers

English
pyramid of productivity
quadrat /ˈkwɒdræt/
questionnaire
quota /ˈkwəʊtə/
random /ˈrændəm/
random error /ˈrændəm ˈerə/
random sampling /ˈrændəm ˈsæmplɪŋ/
range of tolerance /reɪndʒ ɒv ˈtɒlərəns/
rare earth element
realised niche
rebound effect
recycling
Red List
red tide
reintroduction
reliability /rɪˌlaɪəˈbɪlɪti/
renewable /rɪˈnjuːəbl/
replacement level /rɪˈpleɪsmənt ˈlevl/
representative /ˌrepɪˈzentətɪv/
reproductive strategy
research question /rɪˈsɜːtʃ ˈkwestʃn/
residence time

English

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

sigmoid curve

Simpson's reciprocal index

sink
/sɪŋk/
soil
/sɔɪl/
soil degradation

soil texture

solar
/ˈsəʊlə/
source
/sɔːs/

English

spearman's rank
correlation coefficient
/ˈspɪəmənz ræŋk ˌkɒrɪˈleɪʃn ˌkəʊɪˈfɪʃənt/
speciation
/ˌspiːʃiˈeɪʃn/
species
/ˈspiːsiːz/
species diversity

species richness
/ˈspiːsiːz ˈrɪtʃnəs/
sponge city

standard deviation
/ˈstændəd ˌdiːvɪˈeɪʃn/
steady-state equilibrium

stock
/stɒk/
storage
/ˈstɔːrɪdʒ/
stratified sampling
/ˈstrætɪfaɪd ˈsæmplɪŋ/
stratosphere
/ˈstrætəsfɪə/
subsistence farming
/sʌbˈsɪstəns ˈfɑːmɪŋ/
substitution
/ˌsʌbstɪˈtjuːʃn/
succession
/səkˈseʃn/
survivorship curve
/səˈvaɪvəʃɪp kɜːv/
sustainability
/səˌsteɪnəˈbɪlɪti/
sustainable city

sustainable development
/səˈsteɪnəbl dɪˈveləpmənt/
sustainable intensification

English

sweet wormwood

system
/ˈsɪstəm/
systematic
/ˌsɪstəˈmætɪk/
systematic error
/ˌsɪstəˈmætɪk ˈerə/
systematic sampling
/ˌsɪstəˈmætɪk ˈsæmplɪŋ/
technocentric

tectonic plate
/tekˈtɒnɪk pleɪt/
temperature inversion

terracing
/ˈterɪsɪŋ/
thermal pollution
/ˈθɜːml pəˈluːʃn/
thermohaline circulation

tipping point

topsoil

total fertility rate
/ˈtəʊtl fɜːˈtɪlɪti reɪt/
tragedy of the commons
/ˈtrædʒədi ɒvðə ˈkɒmənz/
transect
/træn'sekt/
transfer
/ˈtrænsfɜː/
transformation
/trænsfɔːˈmeɪʃn/
transpiration
/trænspəˈreɪʃn/
tricellular model

trophic level
/ˈtrəʊfɪk ˈlevl/

English

troposphere
/ˈtrɒpəsfɪə/
tropospheric ozone

ultraviolet
/ˌʊltrəˈvaɪəlɪt/
uncertainty
/ʌnˈsɜːtənti/
upwelling
/ˈʌpwəlɪŋ/
urban heat island
/ˈɜːbən hiːt ˈaɪlənd/
urban planning

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

volatile organic compound

waste hierarchy

water footprint

water security
/ˈwɔːtə sɪˈkjʊərɪti/
water stress
/ˈwɔːtə stres/
weather
/ˈweðə/
weathering
/ˈweðərɪŋ/
wind
/wɪnd/
worldview

English

yield

/ji:ld/

zonation