

Coastal Explorations: A Geographical Report

Learning objective: To describe and explain the physical processes that shape the UK coastline, using precise geographical vocabulary.

Use this writing scaffold to structure your report. Ensure you include technical terminology when describing coastal erosion and deposition. Refer to the word bank to help link your ideas logically.

As Finn the dolphin glides along the British coastline, he observes a landscape in constant transformation, where the relentless power of the sea meets the stubborn resilience of the land.

Word bank: consequently · furthermore · eroded material · longshore drift · sedimentation · topography · nevertheless · hydraulic action · subsequently · vulnerable

1. Introduction: Describe the general location you are focusing on and identify its primary coastal features. Start by saying: 'The stretch of coastline I have chosen to investigate is characterised by...' (2 marks)

2. The Process of Erosion: Explain how hydraulic action and abrasion change the shape of the cliffs. Start by saying: 'Over time, the cliffs are altered by mechanical processes such as...' (3 marks)

3. Transport and Deposition: Describe how material moves along the shore. Start by saying: 'Coastal material is moved along the beach via longshore drift, which occurs when...' (3 marks)

4. Human Impact: Explain why some coastal areas require management. Start by saying: 'Coastal management is essential in this area because...' (2 marks)

5. Critical Analysis: Justify why certain methods of coastal defence, such as sea walls or groynes, are more effective than others. Start by saying: 'In my opinion, the most effective method of defence is... because...' (4 marks)

6. Future Predictions: What might happen to this landscape if sea levels continue to rise? Start by saying: 'If global sea levels were to increase significantly, the local coastline would likely...' (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Compare and contrast two different coastal landforms (e.g., a stack versus a bay). Explain the geological reasons why one might erode faster than the other. If you were a coastal engineer, design a 'soft engineering' solution that works with natural processes rather than against them, and justify your choice.