

- 1 Identify the type of words in the box below. Are they (a) general nouns which need a context for their meaning or (b) nouns which have specific meaning?

consequence ■ factor ■ change ■ result ■ impact ■ effect ■ cause ■ role

- 2 Complete the sentences with a word from the box above. Some will need to be put in the plural form.

- a Technology has had a huge \_\_\_\_\_ on our lives.
- b The area has undergone many \_\_\_\_\_ in recent years.
- c Planting trees can have a knock-on \_\_\_\_\_ on the economy of arid areas.
- d Deforestation can have unforeseen \_\_\_\_\_ for the ecology of a region.
- e It is sometimes difficult to discover the exact \_\_\_\_\_ of a problem.
- f To achieve the best \_\_\_\_\_, it is important to initiate change at a local level.
- g The main \_\_\_\_\_ contributing to success in any organization is a happy workforce.
- h The climate has played a major \_\_\_\_\_ in this region's economic history.

- 3 Complete the sentences with a phrase from the box.

gradual development ■ limited impact ■ far-reaching consequences  
dramatic changes ■ favourable outcome ■ underlying cause ■ profound effect

- a Government intervention has had \_\_\_\_\_ for regional growth.
- b Shock tactics can bring about \_\_\_\_\_ in people's behaviour.
- c \_\_\_\_\_ is much more acceptable than rapid change.
- d The introduction of new farming practices has had a \_\_\_\_\_ on people's lives.
- e To achieve the most \_\_\_\_\_ the countries involved need to negotiate.
- f The \_\_\_\_\_ in this particular case is not easy to find.
- g The huge sums invested had only a \_\_\_\_\_ on the neighbourhood.

### Technique

Keep lists of general nouns with possible adjective collocations. Use the *Macmillan Collocations Dictionary*. This will help to build your vocabulary range for the other skills as well as reading.

- 4 Decide whether the words in brackets have the same or opposite meaning to the words in italics.

#### Example

Tourists have changed the coastline *dramatically*. (slightly) *Opposite meaning*

- a The wasteland was *completely* transformed. (totally)
- b The government *fully* accept the consequences of their actions. (partially)
- c The marine life in the coral reef is *highly* sensitive to temperature fluctuations. (exceedingly)
- d Alternative sources of energy like solar power can *vastly* improve life in remote communities. (marginally)
- e The rising sea level will *greatly* affect the livelihoods of people on some Pacific islands. (considerably)