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)

LIVEWORKSHEETS