**Coasts Review Notes – Handouts 1-4**

**What is a system? How does a systems approach help us to understand the coast?**

**What are inputs, processes and outputs? Give examples of each**

**What are the external factors in a system?**

**What is the difference between an open and closed system?**

**What are the different zones on the coast and what are their characteristics?**

**How are landforms and landscape different?**

**What causes the wind?**

**What affects wave energy?**

**What are the characteristics of a wave?**

**Why do waves break?**

**What is dynamic equilibrium?**

**What is negative feedback? Are you able to give an example?**

**What is positive feedback? Are you able to give an example?**

**What are tides?**

**What causes the tides?**

**What causes spring and neap tides?**

**Where is the Bay of Fundy? Why does it have the highest tidal range in the world?**

**Why might spring tides have more energy and what impact might this have on the coast?**

**What are micro, meso and macro tidal ranges?**

**How does tide and wave influence coastal processes?**

**What modifies tides?**

**What is a tidal bore? Give an example of one?**

**What is a tidal surge? Give an example of where and where one occurred in the UK and the impact it had?**

**What are the characteristics of low and high energy coasts?**

**What is a sediment cell? Is it an open or closed system?**

**Where do sediment inputs come from? Where can sediment be stored as a sink?**

**Why are sediment budgets important in coastal management?**

**What are the problems with the sediment cell approach?**

**What are the different currents operating on the coast?**

**For each – explain how they might affect the coastline?**

**How are constructive and destructive waves different?**

**What is wave refraction and how does it impact on headlands? Why is this an example of negative feedback.**