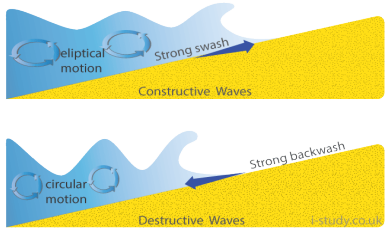
UK Physical Landscapes - Coasts

1. Keywords

Backwash	When a wave crashed onto a beach, the backwash is when water runs back down the beach, due to gravity.
Bay	A wide, semi-circular area between two headlands. Usually contains a beach.
Boulder clay	Deposited by glaciers, is a less resistant (soft) rock that is easily eroded by the sea.
Headland	An area of land that jots out into the sea. Made from more resistant (hard) rock such as limestone.
Hard engineering	Involves the building of large, man-made structures aimed at preventing natural processes.
Soft engineering	Attempts to work with natural processes.
Shoreline Management Plan	A large-scale risk assessment that coastal processes pose to people, historic and natural environments
Spit	A large area of sand and sediment that is deposited by the sea across an estuary.
Swash	When water is washed up the beach, which is driven by wind direction.

2. Different types of waves



Waves are created by wind blowing over the surface of the sea. As the wind blows over the sea, friction is created - producing a swell in the water.

Characteristic	Constructive	Destructive
Energy	Low	High
Swash	Strong	Weak
Backwash	Weak	Strong
Wave height	Low	High
Beach shape caused by this type of wave	Wide and flat	Steep and narrow
Frequency	Low (6-8 per minute)	High (10-14 per minute)

3. Erosion

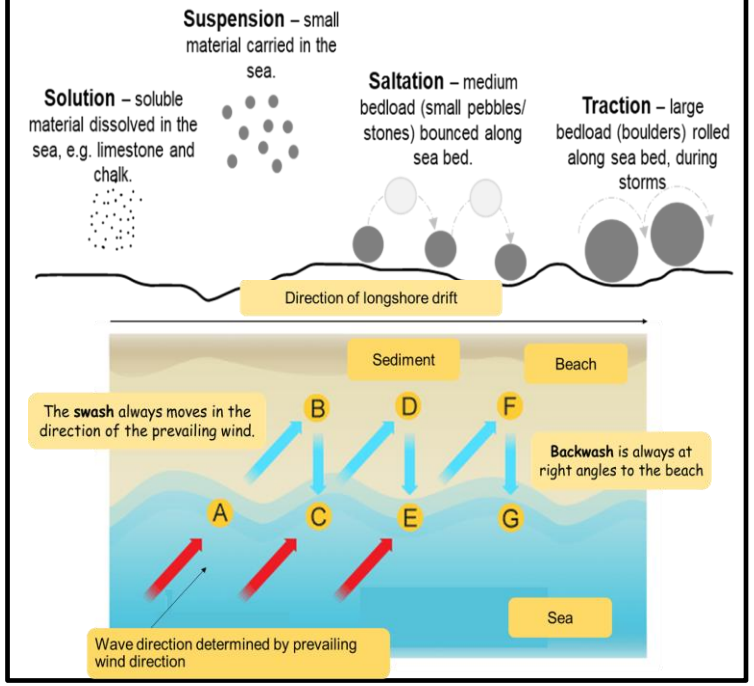
Solution - Soluble rocks, such as limestone are dissolved by the salty water

Hydraulic action/power breaking waves compress pockets of air in cracks in a cliff widen them over time.

Attrition - rocks and boulders transported by waves bump into each other breaking into smaller pieces.

Abrasion - The wearing a way of cliffs by sediment flung by breaking waves.

4. Transportation



5. Mechanical weathering: Freeze-thaw

Stage One

Water seeps into cracks and fractures in the rock.

Stage Two

When the water freezes, it expands about 9%. This wedges apart the rock.

Stage Three

With repeated freeze-thaw cycles, the rock breaks off.

6. Command Words

Assess – Make an informed judgement by using the evidence available.
Compare – Identify both similarities and differences. Clearly state how they are similar or different.
Describe – Set out the key characteristics. (Say **what** is happening).
Explain – Set out purposes and reasons. (Say **why or how** it has happened.
Evaluate – Using the available evidence make a judgement about how effective or positive something is.
Identify – Name or highlight a key characteristic.
Justify – Make a point and support it with evidence.
Outline – Set out the main characteristics, often looking for one key characteristic.
To what extent – Judge the importance or success of a strategy or event. Ensure that you provide a measure of the success.