

**Section A: Rock Reasoning**

1. It is hard-wearing and doesn't absorb liquids easily, so it resists staining and scratching
2. e.g. building material, since it would be durable and weatherproof
3. Sedimentary rocks form from layers of compressed sediment over time; igneous rocks form from cooled, hardened lava or magma
4. Fossils form more easily in sedimentary rock, since it forms in layers that can preserve remains before they decay
5. Accept any reasonable fair test description, e.g. pouring the same amount of water on each rock and timing how long it takes to pass through

**Section B: Soil Reasoning**

1. Compost adds nutrients and improves soil structure, helping crops grow better
2. Sandy: drains well (advantage) but doesn't hold nutrients well (disadvantage). Clay: holds nutrients and water well (advantage) but can become waterlogged (disadvantage)
3. Earthworms mix and aerate soil as they burrow, and their waste adds nutrients
4. Poor rocky soil has few nutrients and little space for roots to grow, making it hard for most plants to establish
5. Accept any three-step explanation, e.g. (1) weathering breaks rock into fragments, (2) fragments mix with decaying plant and animal matter, (3) this mixture develops into soil over a very long time