

**Section A: River Processes Reasoning**

1. Near the source, a river moves faster and erodes more due to steeper slopes; near the mouth, it slows and deposits material instead
2. Water evaporates from oceans/land, rises and condenses into clouds, falls as precipitation, then collects in rivers/oceans, repeating the cycle
3. A river's speed and power generally decrease as it nears the sea, causing it to erode less and deposit more sediment, shaping wider, flatter landscapes
4. Deltas form when a river's flow slows dramatically at the sea, depositing large amounts of sediment it was carrying
5. A mountain stream would likely be fast, narrow, and shallow; the Thames is wider, slower, and much larger due to many tributaries joining it

Section B: Rivers & Human Impact

1. Rivers provide water, transport, and fertile land, making them ideal locations for settlements to grow into cities
2. Advantages include water storage and electricity generation; disadvantages include disrupting natural habitats and affecting communities downstream
3. Because water flows downstream, carrying pollutants with it, so upstream pollution can affect communities and ecosystems far away
4. Changing rainfall patterns could make flooding more frequent or severe in some areas, and droughts more likely in others
5. By studying a river's flow patterns and history, engineers can predict flood risks and design appropriate defences