

Edexcel IAL Geography

Atmosphere & Weather Systems

Definition Flashcards

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Air Masses



Air Masses

A body of air which share similar conditions in terms of temperature, humidity and pressure.



Air Pressure



Air Pressure

The weight of the atmosphere above a particular point, due to gravity.



Anticyclone



Anticyclone

A system of high pressure, causing high temperatures and unseasonably high evaporation rates.



Atmosphere



Atmosphere

A layer of gases surrounding the Earth.



Blocking Anticyclone



Blocking Anticyclone

An anticyclone that disrupts normal weather conditions, causing extreme weather such as heatwaves.



Climate



Climate

The average annual weather patterns, predicted on centuries of past weather conditions.



Cold Front



Cold Front

The front of a cold air mass, often travelling from the Poles.



Condensation



Condensation

The change of state from gas to liquid, for example water vapour in the atmosphere condenses into liquid water as precipitation.



Convictional Precipitation



Convictional Precipitation

Solar radiation heats the air above the ground, causing it to rise, cool & condense forming precipitation (often as thunderstorms).



Coriolis Effect



Coriolis Effect

A phenomenon where the rotation of the Earth causes air masses to spin - clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere, anti-clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere.



Depression



Depression

A system of low pressure, with fronts of precipitation where low and high pressure air masses meet.



Drought



Drought

An extended period of deficient rainfall relative to the statistical average for the region (UN)



Enhanced Greenhouse Effect



Enhanced Greenhouse Effect

Changes in climate due to more solar radiation being trapped in the atmosphere by greenhouse gases.



Evaporation



Evaporation

The change of state from liquid to gas,
for example liquid water to water vapour.



Fog



Fog

Water vapour at low altitude that reduces visibility.



Frontal Precipitation



Frontal Precipitation

Where air masses of different temperatures meet at a front, one mass will be forced over another, causing precipitation beneath the front.



Humidity



Humidity

The volume of water vapour in the atmosphere.



Meteorological Drought



Meteorological Drought

When long-term precipitation trends are below average.



Occluded Front



Occluded Front

Where a warm front and cold front meet and combine.



Relief Precipitation



Relief Precipitation

Precipitation caused when air masses are forced to rise over high land, determined by the relief/ morphology of the land.



Tropical Cyclones



Tropical Cyclones

Low pressure weather systems that bring extreme winds, precipitation and storm surges. Also known as Typhoons and Hurricanes.



Warm Front



Warm Front

The front of a warm air mass, often from the Tropics.



Weather



Weather

Day to day changes in the conditions for a particular place.



Wind



Wind

Air moving from high pressure to low pressure.

