

Edexcel IAL Geography

World at Risk

Definition Flashcards

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Accretion Wedge



Accretion Wedge

The accumulation of material at the point of subduction.



Aseismic Buildings



Aseismic Buildings

Buildings designed to withstand or minimise destruction during an earthquake.



Anticyclone



Anticyclone

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



Asthenosphere



Asthenosphere

The upper mantle layer of the Earth. It is semi-molten and approximately 2000km wide.



Ash



Ash

Fine particles and dust ejected during an eruption, which can remain airborne as clouds or accumulate on the ground.



Channel Flow



Channel Flow

Water flowing in a rivulet, stream or river



Continental Crust



Continental Crust

Crust that forms the continents of the lithosphere, on average 35km thick.



Continental Drift



Continental Drift

The movement of tectonic plates, due to varying weights of crust. It was originally thought that convection currents caused the movement of the plates, but now Slab Pull is thought of as the primary driving force.



Convection Currents



Convection Currents

The circulation of magma within the mantle (asthenosphere). Magma is heated by radioactive processes in the core and cools at the surface, and so circulates between the two places.



Convictional Precipitation



Convictional Precipitation

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



Degg's Model



Degg's Model

This model shows that a hazard becomes a disaster if it affects a vulnerable population.



Depression



Depression

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



Drainage Basin



Drainage Basin

The area of land drained by a river and its tributaries



Drainage Density



Drainage Density

The total length of all rivers and streams divided by the area of the drainage basin



Drought



Drought

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



Economic Water Scarcity



Economic Water Scarcity

When water resources are available but insufficient economic wealth limits access to it



Enhanced Greenhouse Effect



Enhanced Greenhouse Effect

The buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, reducing the amount of solar radiation reflected into space.



ENSO Cycles



ENSO Cycles

El Niño Southern Oscillations - naturally occurring phenomena that involves the movement of warm water in the Equatorial Pacific



Epicentre



Epicentre

The point on the surface, directly above the earthquake's origin.



Focus



Focus

The place in the crust where the pressure/seismic energy is released.



Glacial Period



Glacial Period

A period of time of colder average global temperatures causing the growth of ice cover, glacial advances and sea levels to fall.



Hazard Mitigation Cycle



Hazard Mitigation Cycle

The sequence of governance of a natural hazard: monitoring and prediction, mitigation, preparedness.



Holocene Epoch



Holocene Epoch

Our current glacial period of limited ice cover, lasting over 10,000 years.



Hot Spot



Hot Spot

Volcanoes found away from the plate boundary, due to a magma plume closer to the surface.



Hydrological Drought



Hydrological Drought

Insufficient soil moisture to meet the needs of vegetation (crops, trees, plants)



Interglacial Period



Interglacial Period

A period of time of warmer average global temperatures, resulting in reduced ice cover, glacial retreat and sea levels to rise.



Jokulhaup



Jokulhaup

A sudden glacial flood caused by a glacier on top of or near a volcano melting due to the heat from the eruption.



Lahar



Lahar

A flow of mud and debris.



Lithosphere



Lithosphere

The upper crust of the Earth (average thickness = 100km)



Love Waves



Love Waves

A surface earthquake wave with horizontal displacement.



Meteorological Drought



Meteorological Drought

When long-term precipitation trends are below average.



Mid-Ocean Ridge



Mid-Ocean Ridge

Parting oceanic plates at a constructive plate boundary creates a ridge, with new land at the base of the oceanic valley.



Milankovitch Cycles



Milankovitch Cycles

Changes to the tilt and shape of the orbit will affect the average temperature of the Earth.



Moment Magnitude Scale



Moment Magnitude Scale

A measure of an earthquake's energy released, considered the most accurate measure.



Oceanic Crust



Oceanic Crust

Crust, usually thinner than continental crust, that forms the sea floor. It is on average 7km thick.



Orbital Eccentricity



Orbital Eccentricity

How far a planet's orbit is from being a perfect circle.



Paleomagnetism



Paleomagnetism

The alternating polarisation of new land created. As magma cools, the magnetic elements within will align with the Earth's magnetic field, which can alternate over thousands of years.



Park's Model



Park's Model

A model describing the decline and recovery of a country over time, following a natural disaster.



Partial Melting



Partial Melting

Elements within the lithosphere have different melting points, and so rock is partially melted, partially solid



Permafrost



Permafrost

Permanently frozen soils throughout the year.



Physical Water Scarcity



Physical Water Scarcity

A physical lack of available freshwater which cannot meet demand



Primary Waves



Primary Waves

An earthquake wave causing compressions within the body of rock.



Pyroclastic Flow



Pyroclastic Flow

A mixture of gases and rock fragments, at high temperatures travelling at rapid speeds.



Rayleigh Waves



Rayleigh Waves

A surface earthquake wave causing both horizontal and vertical displacement.



Richter Scale



Richter Scale

A logarithmic measure of earthquake's intensity.



Runoff



Runoff

Water flowing over the surface of the ground eg. after precipitation or snowmelt



Secondary Waves



Secondary Waves

An earthquake wave causing vertical displacement within the body of rock.



Seismic Waves



Seismic Waves

The energy released during an earthquake, in the form of Primary, Secondary, Love and Rayleigh Waves.



Slab Pull



Slab Pull

The force contributing to the movement of tectonic plates. Slab Pull is due to the weight of the plate.



Subduction



Subduction

Oceanic plate is forced below continental plate, due to the oceanic plate being more dense than the continental plate.



Thermohaline Circulation



Thermohaline Circulation

The movement of volumes of seawater from cold deep water to warm water surface water.



Tipping Point



Tipping Point

A critical threshold where any changes to a system after the tipping point are irreversible.



Tsunami



Tsunami

Initial vertical water displacement (often from a submarine earthquake) creates waves, with large destructive power.



Volcanic Explosivity Index (VEI)



Volcanic Explosivity Index (VEI)

A measure of the magnitude of a volcano's eruptions



Volcanic Island Arc



Volcanic Island Arc

A series of volcanoes (often in the shape of an arc) that are formed consecutively, as a tectonic plate moves across a magma plume.



Wadati-Benioff Zone



Wadati-Benioff Zone

A region of the subducting plate, most affected by pressure and friction, where most destructive margin earthquakes originate.

