

# CAIE Geography Pre-U

## 1A: Hot Arid and Semi-Arid Environments Glossary of Definitions



## Glossary of Definitions - Hot Arid and Semi-Arid Environments

**Aridity**- The lack of moisture, especially having insufficient rainfall to support most trees or woody plants.

**Aquifer**- Underground sources of water as a result of permeable rock, rock that contains fractures or unconsolidated particles.

**Desertification**- The process of land degradation in arid and semi-arid regions as a result of various factors both climatic and from human activities.

**Erosion**- The wearing away and/or removal of rock particles and other materials by a moving force.

**Evaporation**- The change of a liquid into a gas.

**Evapotranspiration**- The total loss of vapour from evaporation from the ground and transpiration from plants.

**Extreme rainfall events**- When there is more rain than the yearly average in a few hours.

**Infiltration**- Where water on the ground surface is absorbed or moves down into the soil.

**Interception**- Precipitation that does not reach the soil but is collected on leaves or branches.

**Interpluvial**- Period in geological history marked by decreased rainfall.

**Pluvials**- Periods in geological history marked by increased rainfall.

**Sustainability**- Development that meets the needs of the present population without compromising the needs of future generations to meet their own needs.

**Transpiration**- The loss of water vapour from the overground parts of the plant by evaporation.

**Weathering**- The process of breaking down a rock. It is the mechanism that leads to rock decomposition or degradation, and the production of sediment.

