AQA Geography GCSE

The Challenge of Natural Hazards

Flashcards

Adaptation

Adaptation

Responding to climate change by coming up with ways to live and cope with the effects.

Atmospheric circulation

Atmospheric circulation

The general movements of air around the Earth due to pressure and temperature.

Atmospheric hazard

Atmospheric hazard

Hazards caused by the weather and processes in the atmosphere.

Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)

Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)

The process of capturing carbon dioxide that would normally be emitted into the atmosphere and storing it underground in reservoirs.

Climate change

Climate change

A distinct change in global or regional patterns of climate, such as changes in temperature or precipitation patterns.

Conservative plate margin

Conservative plate margin

A plate margin where two plates are moving alongside each other.

Constructive plate margin

Constructive plate margin

A plate margin where two plates are moving away from each other.

Continental crust

Continental crust

The thicker, less dense crust that makes up the continents.

Convection current

Convection current

The movement of a fluid caused by a difference in temperature or density.

Coriolis Effect

Coriolis Effect

The effect of the Earth's rotation on wind movements.

Cyclone

Cyclone

A tropical storm that hits Oceania or Madagascar.

Destructive plate margin

Destructive plate margin

A plate margin where two plates are moving towards each other.

Eccentricity

Eccentricity

The changing of the orbit of the Earth around the Sun from a circular shape to an ellipse.

Eye

Eye

An area of a tropical storm with extremely low pressure and calm conditions.

Eyewall

Eyewall

An area of a tropical storm with the most intense, powerful winds and torrential rain.

Ferrel Cell

Ferrel Cell

At around 60° either side of the equator, moist air rises, and travels to lower latitudes at around 30° where it sinks, along with air travelling from the equator.

Fossil fuels

Fossil fuels

Fuels made up of the remains of organic material, such as oil, coal and gas.

Geological hazard

Geological hazard

A hazard caused by processes on the land.

Greenhouse Gases

Greenhouse Gases

Gases in the Earth's atmosphere that trap energy in the Earth's system and contribute to the greenhouse effect (carbon dioxide, methane, water vapour and nitrous oxides).

Hadley Cell

Hadley Cell

At the equator, hot moist air rises, moves to higher latitudes (30°) and sinks.

Hazard risk

Hazard risk

The probability that a natural hazard will negatively affect a population.

Hotspot

Hotspot

An area where unusually hot magma breaks through the middle of a plate and travels up to the surface, creating a volcano.

Hurricane

Hurricane

A tropical storm that hits the USA, Latin America or the Caribbean.

Hydrological hazard

Hydrological hazard

A hazard caused by the movement of water on the land.

Ice core

Ice core

A cylinder of ice extracted from an ice sheet or glacier, which is used to analyse past environmental conditions.

Immediate responses

Immediate responses

Actions taken as soon as the hazard happens and in its immediate aftermath (hours, days, and potentially a week or so after the event).

Long-term responses

Long-term responses

Actions taken after the immediate responses when the effects of the hazard have been minimised (weeks, months, and years after the event).

Magma

Magma

Molten rock found beneath the Earth's surface.

Mantle

Mantle

The area underneath the crust which contains magma.

Marine sediment core

Marine sediment core

A cylinder of ocean sediments removed from the ocean floor, which is used to analyse past environmental conditions.

Milankovitch Cycles

Milankovitch Cycles

The cyclical variations in the Earth's orbit around the Sun.

Mitigation

Mitigation

Reducing the causes of climate change, so that climate change slows or even stops.

Monitoring

Monitoring

Detecting and recording physical changes and warning signs of a hazard.

Natural hazard

Natural hazard

A naturally occurring event that is a threat to a population.

Obliquity (or axial tilt)

Obliquity (or axial tilt)

The tilt of the Earth's axis, which changes from 21.5° and 24.5°.

Oceanic crust

Oceanic crust

The thinner, denser crust that makes up the ocean floor.

Planning

Planning

Having systems in place, such as evacuation routes, so that if a hazardous event does occur, the population is prepared in advance.

Plate margin

Plate margin

The point at which two plates meet.

Polar Cell

Polar Cell

At 60° north or south of the equator, moist air rises, and travels to the poles (90°), where it sinks.

Precession

Precession

The ‘wobble’ of the Earth’s axis.

Prediction

Prediction

Using monitoring as well as historical trends and computer-based modelling to predict when a hazardous event may occur.

Pressure belt

Pressure belt

A region of the Earth which is generally under the same pressure.

Primary effects

Primary effects

The effects that are directly caused by the hazard itself.

Protection

Protection

Increasing the resistance of a population to natural hazards by physically designing things that will withstand natural hazards.

Quaternary Period

Quaternary Period

The geological time period that started 2.6 million years ago and extends into the present.

Secondary effects

Secondary effects

The effects that are a result of the primary effects.

Storm surge

Storm surge

A rise in sea level caused when a tropical storm pushes a large amount of sea water onto the shore.

Subduction

Subduction

A process that occurs at a destructive plate margin when a plate is pushed below another plate, forcing it to sink into the mantle.

Tectonic hazard

Tectonic hazard

A natural hazard caused by the physical processes and movements of tectonic plates.

Tectonic plates

Tectonic plates

Large slabs of the Earth's crust that sit and move on top of the liquid mantle.

The Enhanced Greenhouse Effect

The Enhanced Greenhouse Effect

A process where the Earth's surface is heated by the greenhouse effect at a higher rate due to increased greenhouse gas emissions from human activities.

The Greenhouse Effect

The Greenhouse Effect

A natural process where greenhouse gases trap the energy from the Sun inside the Earth's atmosphere, warming the Earth's surface.

Tropical storm

Tropical storm

A very large, spinning storm with high winds and torrential rain that forms in the tropics.

Tsunami

Tsunami

A large wave caused by a large amount of water being displaced when plates move.

Typhoon

Typhoon

A tropical storm that hits India, Japan or the Philippines.