

# AQA Geography GCSE

## Ecosystems

### Flashcards

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# Abiotic components



## Abiotic components

Non-living environmental factors that have influence over the ecosystem (e.g. climate, light exposure, soil type).



# Biome



# Biome

Also known as a global-scale ecosystem; a large, distinct region of the Earth with similar climate, soil, plants and animals.



# Biotic components



## Biotic components

Living organisms that interact with the environment and other organisms within an ecosystem.



# Coniferous forest biome





## Coniferous forest biome

A biome located at high latitudes, characterised by conifer trees and a cold climate.



# Consumers



## Consumers

Organisms that receive energy from consuming (i.e. eating) living organisms.



# Decomposers



## Decomposers

Organisms that break down organic material and release the nutrients back into the ecosystem.



# Desert biome



## Desert biome

A biome located around  $30^{\circ}$  north and south of the equator, characterised by extremely low precipitation levels and extreme daily temperature fluctuations.



# Ecosystem





# Ecosystem

A natural system in which a community of plants and animals interact with each other and their physical environment.



# Eutrophication



## Eutrophication

The growth of algae in a body of water due to excess nutrients, leading to the depletion of oxygen in an aquatic ecosystem.



# Food chain



## Food chain

A linear relationship showing the biotic interactions within an ecosystem, from a producer to a final consumer.



# Food web



## Food web

A representation of the interactions between multiple producers and consumers within a specific ecosystem, shown through a series of different food webs.



# Mediterranean biome





## Mediterranean biome

A biome located  $40-45^{\circ}$  north of the equator (and in isolated spots south of the equator), characterised by mild, moist winters and hot, dry summers.



# Nutrient cycling



## Nutrient cycling

The transfer of nutrients through an ecosystem, from the decay of organic material into the production and energy of living organisms.



# Producers



## Producers

Organisms that convert energy from the environment (mainly sunlight) into sugars (glucose).



# Savanna biome



## Savanna biome

A biome located around  $15-30^{\circ}$  north and south of the equator, characterised by high temperatures, very dry summers and very wet winters.



# Temperate deciduous forest biome





## Temperate deciduous forest biome

A biome located around  $40-50^{\circ}$  north and south of the equator, characterised by deciduous trees (trees that shed their leaves) and moderate precipitation.



# Temperate grassland biome



## Temperate grassland biome

A biome located in non-coastal areas around 30-40° north and south of the equator, characterised by low precipitation and grasses as the major vegetation.



# Tropical rainforest biome



## Tropical rainforest biome

A biome located near the equator, characterised by very high precipitation and sustained warm temperatures.



# Tundra biome



## Tundra biome

A biome located in the far northern hemisphere, characterised by very cold conditions and permanently frozen soils.

