

# Edexcel A Geography GCSE

## Topic 1B: River Landscapes and Processes

### Definitions Flashcards

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# Abrasion



## Abrasion

A form of erosion where loose material, pebbles and sediment 'sandpaper' the walls and floors of a river, cliff or glacier.



# Attrition



## Attrition

Rocks and pebbles continuously hit against each other, causing them to break into smaller rocks until they become sediment.



# Biological Weathering



## Biological Weathering

Rocks are broken apart by growing vegetation and roots, microbes, or chemical reactions from animal faeces. This erodes the rock face.



# Chemical Weathering



## Chemical Weathering

The weak acid in rainwater dissolves chemical compounds in the rock.



# Drainage Basin



## Drainage Basin

Often called a catchment area, it is an area of land where all water, precipitation and streams flow and drain off into a single river, bay or out to sea.



# Dredging



## Dredging

Sediment (silt) and other materials are dug up and removed from the bottom of rivers and lakes.



# Embankments



## Embankments

The banks of a river are raised up by brick and concrete, to increase the channel capacity and prevent flooding.



# Estuary



## Estuary

The area where a river meets an ocean, often muddy or silty. Sometimes estuaries become exposed at low tide and are hazardous to traverse in a boat due to sandbanks.



# Floodplain



## Floodplain

The wide, low-lying floor of a river valley. Floodplains are found in the lower course of a river and tend to act as overspill when the river channel is full.



# Floodplain Zoning



## Floodplain Zoning

Controlling where houses and buildings are built relative to the river to reduce their risk of flooding.



# Freeze Thaw



## Freeze Thaw

A form of physical sub-aerial weathering where water freezes in the cracks of a rock, expands and enlarges the crack. This weakens the rock overtime leaving it more open to erosion.



# Geology



# Geology

The physical structure and arrangement of a rock.



# Hard Management



## Hard Management

The use of concrete structures to reduce or halt the recession of a coastline.

Includes: Groynes, Sea Walls, Rock Armour.



# Highlands



## Highlands

An area of land that is at a high elevation and tends to have a larger relief.



# Hydraulic Action



## Hydraulic Action

The pressure of compressed air forced into the cracks of a rock face causes the rock to weaken and break apart.



# Igneous Rock



## Igneous Rock

Rock that has formed from volcanic activity, often cooled magma on the Earth's surface.



# Impermeable



## Impermeable

A rock that does not allow water to pass through it.



# Levee



## Levee

A natural or artificial build up of earth on the banks of a river to prevent water from overspilling and controlling the river flow.



# Lowlands



## Lowlands

An area of land that has a small relief, so tends to be flat and at a low elevation.



# Mass Movement



## Mass Movement

A large, downhill movement of material usually from a cliff-face. Here, the rock is often weak due to erosion and the movement is caused by gravity.



# Mechanical Weathering



## Mechanical Weathering

Sometimes called physical weathering, this is the breakdown of rocks due to forces (such as freeze-thaw) and not chemical reactions.



# Metamorphic Rock



## Metamorphic Rock

Rock formed under intense pressure and heat, often close to tectonic plate boundaries.



# Permeable



## Permeable

A rock that allows water to pass through it.



# Relief



## Relief

The difference in the height of land for a particular region. A large relief means a region has a large difference between the lowest and highest points.



# Saltation



## Saltation

A form of sediment transportation where smaller rocks/pebbles are pushed along the seabed by currents, because they are too heavy to be carried in the flow of the water.



# Sedimentary Rock



## Sedimentary Rock

Formed from the broken remains of sediment and other rocks that have compressed and cemented together over thousands of years.



# Solution



## Solution

Slightly acidic water dissolves chemicals from a rock face (usually limestone) and transports these dissolved materials and chemical compounds.



# Storm Hydrograph



## Storm Hydrograph

A graph that shows the variation of river discharge over a short period of time (days).



# Suspension



## Suspension

Small rocks that are light enough to float are carried in the water, rather than along the bed.



# Thalweg



# Thalweg

The path of fastest water flow in a river.



# Traction



## Traction

Large rocks and boulders are rolled along the bed of the river or sea.

