

Edexcel A Geography GCSE

Topic 1C: Glaciated Upland 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.



Arêtes



Arêtes

A ridge formed between two corries.



Attrition



Attrition

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



Corrasion



Corrasion

A form of mechanical erosion where material and sediment in the sea is flung at the cliff-face. As the waves break against it, the rock making up the cliff-face is broken.



Corries



Corries

An armchair-shaped hollow found on the side of a mountain where snow accumulates. This is where a glacier forms.



Crag & Tail



Crag & Tail

A crag is a hill of high-resistance rocks that the glacier was unable to erode. The tail is the gently-sloping side of the hill, where erosion occurred slower than the rest of the valley floor.



Deposition



Deposition

Material that has been eroded and transported by a glacier is dropped. Often the material is a different type of rock to its surroundings and is called till.



Diurnal Variation



Diurnal Variation

Changes to the weather during a day.



Drumlins



Drumlins

When a glacier hits an obstacle that cannot be eroded, deposition from underneath the glacier builds up behind the obstacle.



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.



Glacial Lakes & Tarns



Glacial Lakes & Tarns

A body of water left behind after a glacier melts away.



Glacial Trough



Glacial Trough

A U-shaped valley formed from a v-shaped river valley that becomes filled and eroded over time by a glacier.



Geology



Geology

The physical structure and arrangement of a rock.



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.



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), not chemical reactions.



Metamorphic Rock



Metamorphic Rock

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



Moraines



Moraines

Deposits of eroded material that has been transported by a glacier. Moraines may be lateral, medial, ground, recessional or terminal.



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.



Roches Moutonnées



Roches Moutonnées

Rock shaped by a glacier flowing over it and eroding it.



Rock Fall/Slides



Rock Fall/Slides

Glaciers leave behind steep valleys which, when the glacier melts, the rock faces feel unsupported and dragged down due to gravity.



Sedimentary Rock



Sedimentary Rock

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



Soil Movement



Soil Movement

Soil particles continuously freeze and unfreeze which slowly causes soil to move down a hill or valley.



Suspension



Suspension

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



Transport



Transport

As glaciers move extremely slowly, they carry any materials trapped within the glacier to a different location.



Truncated Spurs



Truncated Spurs

A valley with interlocking spurs that have been eroded by a glacier, leaving steep, smooth valley sides.



Plucking



Plucking

Rocks on the base and sides of glaciers become frozen. As the glacier moves, the rocks are 'plucked' up, leaving behind a jagged landscape.

