

# Edexcel A GCSE Geography

## Topic 1C: Glaciated Upland Landscapes and Processes Glossary of Definitions

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

**Arêtes** - A ridge formed between two corries.

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

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

**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** - 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** - Changes to the weather during a day.

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

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

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

**Geology** - The physical structure and arrangement of a rock.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

**Permeable** - A rock that allows water to pass through it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

