

Edexcel Geography GCSE

People and the Biosphere

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).



Altitude



Altitude

A measurement of the height of the land (usually as height above sea level).



Altitudinal zonation



Altitudinal zonation

The presence of distinct bands of different vegetation types at different elevations, caused by the change of environmental conditions with altitude.



Biome



Biome

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



Biosphere



Biosphere

The living layer of Earth between the atmosphere (air) and the lithosphere (crust) where all plants and animals are found.



Biotic components



Biotic components

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



Boserupian theory



Boserupian theory

The theory that the demands of the growing population will always be met, as humans will continue to invent new ways to increase resource supply.



Carbon sequestration



Carbon sequestration

The long-term capture and storage of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.



Coniferous forest biome (taiga/boreal)



Coniferous forest biome (taiga/boreal)

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° 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.



Hydrological cycle



Hydrological cycle

The continuous transfer of water throughout Earth.



Indigenous peoples



Indigenous peoples

The earliest known settlers in an area.



Industrialisation



Industrialisation

The development of the industrial sector in a country or region.



Malthusian theory



Malthusian theory

The theory that population growth increases exponentially but resource supply only increases linearly.



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.



Transpiration



Transpiration

The evaporation of water from plants.



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.



Urbanisation



Urbanisation

The increase in the proportion of the population living in urban areas.

