

Key terms for Theme 1

Terms used in **red font** are used in the specification. It would be reasonable to expect question setters to use these terms. Other terms and their definitions have been provided by WJEC to support those learners who are extending their range of specialist geographical terms. The lists are provided as word documents so that you can edit them to suit the learning activities in your school.

Distinctive landscapes

Carrying capacity	The ability of a landscape to absorb the activity of people without any lasting damage.
Honey pot sites	Places that attract many tourists and which are often congested at peak times.
Place	A geographical concept used to describe what makes somewhere special, unique or distinct.
Scale	A geographical concept used to describe the size or area covered by a feature. Scale varies from small (or local) through to regional, national and global.
Spatial	Patterns or geographical features that vary over two dimensions so that they can be shown on a map.
Upland	A landscape that is hilly or mountainous. Upland landscapes contain large areas of open space with few field boundaries.

River process and landform

Abrasion	Erosion caused by friction which occurs when a river carries sand, gravel or pebbles and uses them to wear away the landscape.
Attrition	A type of erosion where rocks smash against each other making them smaller and more rounded.
Deposition	The laying down of material in the landscape. Deposition occurs when the force that was carrying the sediment is reduced.
Drainage basin	The area a river collects its water from. This is also called the river's catchment area .
Floodplain	The flat area beside a river channel that is covered in water during a flood event.
Gorges	Steep sided, narrow valleys often found below a waterfall.
Gulley	A narrow, V-shaped channel cut by running water on steep slopes.
Hydraulic action	Erosion caused when water and air are forced into gaps in rock or soil.
Impermeable	Soil or rock which does not allow water to pass through it, such as clay.
Interlocking spurs	A feature of V-shaped valleys where the river meanders from side to side so that the hillsides interlock rather like the teeth of a zip.
Lateral erosion	The process by which a river can cut sideways into its own river bank.
Load	The sediment carried by a river.
Meander	A sweeping curve or bend in the river's course.
Oxbow lake	The loop of an old meander that is no longer connected to the river channel by flowing water.
Plunge pool	The pool of water found at the base of a waterfall. Plunge pools are erosional features created by abrasion and hydraulic action of the plunging water.
Point bar	A river beach formed of sand and gravel that is deposited on the inside bend of a meander.
Retreat	The gradual backward movement of a landform due to the process of erosion. A waterfall retreats towards the source of a river as it is eroded.
Slip-off slope	The gentle slope on a river beach (or point bar) that is formed by deposition of sediment on the inside bend of a meander.
Source	The starting point of a river.
Transport	The movement of material as it is carried by a river through the landscape.
Tributary	A smaller river which flows into a larger river channel.
Vertical erosion	When the force of water, that is wearing away the landscape, is concentrated downwards.

Coastal process and landform

Abrasion	Erosion caused by friction when waves carry sand or pebbles and use them to wear away the landscape.
Arches	Natural arch-shaped features in cliffs on the coastline that are formed by the erosion of a cave in a headland.
Attrition	A type of erosion where rocks smash against each other making them smaller and more rounded.
Backwash	The flow of water back into the sea after a wave has broken on a beach.
Deposition	The laying down of material in the landscape. Deposition occurs when the force that was carrying the sediment is reduced.
Faults	Major cracks in rocks caused by earth movements
Fetch	The distance over which wind has blown to create waves on the sea. The greater the fetch, the larger the waves.
Hydraulic action	Erosion caused when water and air are forced into gaps in rock or soil.
Landslide	The sudden collapse of a hillside under its own weight. Landslides are sometimes triggered on a cliff by erosion at the foot of the slope.
Longshore drift	A process by which beach material is moved along the coast.
Offshore bar	A feature on the sea bed formed by the deposition of sand.
Retreat	The gradual backward movement of a landform due to the process of erosion. The coastline retreats due to the erosion of a cliff.
Rock falls	The sudden collapse of rocks from a cliff or steep slope.
Slumping	The gradual collapse of a hillside under its own weight. It occurs where an unconsolidated rock glides over an impermeable rock type such as clay.
Spits	Coastal landforms formed by the deposition of sediment in a low mound where the coastline changes direction, for example, at the mouth of a river.
Stacks	Natural features of an eroded cliff landscape. Stacks are formed by the collapse of a sea arch.
Swash	The flow of water up the beach as a wave breaks on the shore.
Unconsolidated	Deposits that are only loosely compacted and which are not properly glued together.
Wave-cut notch	A slot with overhanging rocks that has been cut into the bottom of a cliff by wave action.
Wave-cut platform	A coastal landform made of rocky shelf in front of a cliff. The wave cut platform is caused by erosion and left by the retreat of the cliff.

Flooding

Annual regime	The way in which a river's discharge varies throughout the year.
Cumecs	An abbreviation of cubic metres per second - which is a measure of the discharge of a river.
Discharge	The amount of water flowing through a river channel or out of an aquifer. Discharge is measured in cubic metres per second (cumecs).
Flash floods	Flooding caused by a sudden downpour of rain. The rain falls so quickly it cannot soak into the ground.
Frequency	A number that describes the mean time gap between similar events such as floods or landslides.
Groundwater (store)	Water in the ground below the water table .
Groundwater flow	The flow of water through rocks.
Hazard map	A type of plan or that shows the extent of a hazard such as flood risk.
Hydrograph	A type of line graph that shows variation in discharge of a river. Time, which is on the horizontal axis, could be in hours, days or weeks.
Impermeable	Soil or rock which does not allow water to pass through it, such as clay.
Infiltration	The movement of rain water or snow melt into the soil.
Overland flow	The flow of water across the ground surface.
Permeability	The ability of a rock to allow water to pass through it.
Permeable	A rock which allows water to pass through it, such as limestone.
Porosity	The ability of a rock to store water in tiny air spaces (pores).
Porous	A rock which has many tiny gaps within it (pores) that allow it to store water, such as chalk and sandstone.
Surface stores	Places where water is found on the surface such as lakes and rivers.
Throughflow	The downhill flow of water through soil.
Water cycle	The continuous flow of water between the earth's surface and the atmosphere - also called the hydrological cycle .

Key Terms for Theme 2

Urban-rural change in the UK

Ageing population	A country which has a high proportion of people aged over 65 is said to have an ageing population.
Brownfield site	A development site where older buildings are demolished or renovated before a new development takes place.
Central Business District (CBD)	The area of a town or city in which most shops and offices are clustered together.
Counter-urbanisation	The movement of people and businesses from large cities to smaller towns and rural areas.
Commuting	The process of travelling some distance between home and work on a regular basis.
Deprivation	A condition in which people lack some basic needs such as money, a job or a decent home
Egan's wheel	Eight features of a community which can be used to decide how sustainable the community might be.
Garden cities	New, planned urban areas (towns) that have village-like communities and plenty of space for private gardens and public open space.
Green belt	A government policy used to prevent the spread of cities into the countryside. It is very difficult to get planning permission for new homes in a green belt.
Greenfield site	A plot of land that has not been used before for building.
NIMBY	Not In My Back Yard. People who object to a development because they live close by are said to be NIMBYs.
Second homes	Houses which are used only for holidays or at weekends. Also called holiday cottages
Sphere of influence	The area affected by a place or event. Effects can be good or bad.
Sustainable community	A community, in an urban or rural area, that provides a good quality of life for residents with local jobs and local services and which is designed to have minimum impact on the environment.
Urban-rural continuum	A sliding scale with urban areas (cities) at one end and remote rural areas (empty countryside) at the other.

Global Cities

Global cities	Cities that are well connected by the process of globalisation to other parts of the world.
Globalisation	Flows of people, ideas, money and goods are making an increasingly complex global web that links people and places from distant continents together.
Informal sector	The part of the economy is not regulated by taxes or safety rules. It includes street jobs such as ragpicking as well as household chores and child care.
Informal settlements	Homes where the householders have no legal rights to the land. Informal settlements are commonly known as shanty towns or squatter homes.
Infrastructure	The basic structures and services needed by any society such as water supplies, sewage systems, roads or bridges.
Mega-cities	Urban areas (cities) that have a population greater than 10 million people.
Multi-National Companies (MNCs)	Large businesses, such as Sony, who have branches in several countries. The headquarters of MNCs are usually located in global cities .
Newly Industrialised Country (NIC)	Countries, such as India, which have a growing middle class, a strong manufacturing sector and rapid urban growth.
Pavement dwellers	People who live in make-shift homes on the footpaths of some developing cities, especially in Indian cities. These are a type of informal settlement .
Pull factors	Reasons that attract migrants to move to a new home.
Push factors	Reasons that force people to move away from their existing home.
Ragpicker	Someone who collects, sorts and sells rubbish for recycling.
Rural to urban migration	The movement of people from the countryside to towns and cities.
Slums	Sub-standard housing. This term is commonly used to describe informal settlements in India.
Urbanisation	The physical and human growth of towns and cities.
Wholesale clearance	The demolition of large numbers of sub-standard housing and the redevelopment of new, better homes.

Key Terms for Theme 4

Beach replenishment	A coastal management strategy that involves taking sand from the sea bed and adding it to a beach to make it deeper and wider.
Capacity	The ability of a group of people to withstand a problem such as coastal flooding. Capacity is the opposite of vulnerability .
Environmental refugees	People who have to flee their homes because of a natural disaster such as coastal floods, drought or climate change.
Groynes	Wooden or rock structures that are added to a beach to trap sediment which would otherwise be removed by longshore drift.
Hard engineering	Artificial structures such as sea walls or concrete river embankments.
Hazard map	A type of plan or map that shows the extent of a hazard such as flood risk.
Intertidal zone	The part of the shoreline that is between high tide and low tide.
Low Elevation Coastal Zone (LECZ)	Flat, low-lying land close to the sea that could be at risk of coastal flooding or sea level rise.
Managed retreat (realignment)	A coastal management strategy in which creates a natural line of defence against flooding which is further inland than before.
Shoreline Management Plan	The plan that details how a local authority will manage each stretch of coastline in the UK in the future.
Small Island Developing States	58 small and remote islands and coastal communities that are vulnerable to sea level rise and the effects of climate change.
Soft engineering	Alternative method of reducing floods by planting trees or allowing areas to flood naturally.
Storm surge	The rise in sea level that can cause coastal flooding during a storm or hurricane.
Vulnerability	The risk experienced during a natural disaster such as a coastal flood. Some groups of people in society are more vulnerable to risk than others.