

Key Terms for Theme 5

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.

Climate change

Aerosol	Tiny particles of dust, volcanic ash and gas in the atmosphere that can reflect the sun's energy back into space. This can cause cooling of the climate.
Carbon sinks	Places where carbon is stored over very long periods of time, for example, in fossil fuels.
Carbon-neutral	An activity in which any carbon dioxide emissions are equal to carbon being stored.
Desertification	When the climate of a dry region becomes even drier. Vegetation dies or is eaten by grazing animals and the soil becomes vulnerable to soil erosion.
Glacials	Cold periods in Earth's history when glaciers have advanced and ice sheets increased in size.
Global cooling	The cooling of the climate at a global scale. This process can occur if the sun's radiation is blocked too much dust (aerosols) in the atmosphere.
Greenhouse effect	A process which traps longwave radiation in the atmosphere. This process is natural but has been enhanced (made stronger) by extra greenhouse gases.
Greenhouse gases (GGs)	Gases such as carbon dioxide and methane. These gases are able to trap heat in the atmosphere.
Inter-glacials	Warmer periods in Earth's history when glaciers have retreated and ice sheets have decreased in size.
Long wave radiation	Energy in the form of heat that is given off by the Earth. Some long wave energy is absorbed by greenhouse gases.
Quaternary	The most recent period of geological time in Earth's history.
Short wave radiation	Energy in the form of light that is emitted by the sun. Most short wave energy passes through the Earth's atmosphere.

Weather and climate

Air mass	A large parcel of air in the atmosphere. All parts of the air mass have similar temperature and moisture content at ground level.
Anticyclone	A high pressure system in the atmosphere associated with dry, settled periods of weather.
Aspect	The direction in which a slope or other feature faces.
Continental climate	The climatic condition of large land masses heating up and cooling down very quickly.
Cyclone	A low pressure system in the atmosphere associated with unsettled weather, wind and rain.
Depression	A weather system associated with low air pressure. Depressions bring changeable weather that includes rain and windy conditions.
Drought	A long period of time with much less precipitation than normal.
Leeward side	The side of a hill or mountain that is sheltered from the wind.
Maritime climate	The climatic condition of land close to sea. The sea moderates temperatures meaning that there are only small variations in temperature.
Monsoon	A climate type experienced in South Asia in which a seasonal pattern of wind brings a distinct wet season.
Ocean currents	Predictable flows of water through the seas and oceans.
Tropical rain belt (ITCZ)	A zone between the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn that has a lot of rainfall.
Unstable	Warm air that is rising may be described as unstable. Unstable air causes clouds to build up and form rain.
Urban heat island	When a city has temperatures that are warmer than in the surrounding rural area.
Urban micro-climate	The small scale, local climate of a large city which is influenced by its buildings and traffic.
Windward	The side of a mountain that faces into the wind.

Ecosystems

Biodiversity	The variety of living things.
Biomes	Very large scale ecosystems e.g. tropical rainforests or deserts.
Canopy	The upper layer of a forest.
Cloud forest	A type of tropical rainforest that grows in upland or regions.
Ecosystem	A community of plants and animals and the environment in which they live.
Key services	The way in which ecosystems provide benefits for people.
Lowland tropical rainforest	A type of forest that grows at lower altitudes in the tropics. The Amazon rainforest is an example.
Mangrove forests	A type of tropical forest that grows in coastal regions.
Mono-culture	A type of agriculture (farming) in which only one crop is grown over very large areas of land.
Nutrient cycles	The movement of minerals, through an ecosystem, from one store to another.
Taiga	Natural forest ecosystems found in the cold climates of Northern Europe and America.
Tropical rainforest	Large forest ecosystems (or biomes) that exist in the hot, wet climate found on either side of the equator.
Tundra	A treeless ecosystem largely found in the Arctic region.
Wildlife corridor	Where habitats (such as forests) are joined by strips of habitat (such as hedgerows). These corridors allow the movement of wildlife.

Key Terms for Theme 6

Work and economic development

Dependency	When a country relies too heavily on one way of earning foreign income. For example, some Caribbean countries rely too much on money from tourism.
Diversify	Where a much wider variety of new business opportunities and jobs are created in a region.
Ecotourism	Small scale tourist projects that create money for conservation as well as creating local jobs.
Enclave tourism	Where tourists are kept separate from local communities.
Globalisation	Flows of people, ideas, money and goods are making an increasingly complex global web that links people and distant places together.
GNI per person	An economic measure that represents the average income in a country. GNI stands for Gross National Income.
Informal economy	Those jobs and businesses that are not regulated by the state. Workers generally do not pay income tax but they are not protected by safety rules.
Landlocked	A country that has no coastline and, therefore, has no sea ports. Many of the world's poorest countries are landlocked.
Leakage	When money, spent by tourists, benefits companies in other countries rather than people working in the country that the tourists are visiting.
Mass tourism	When very large numbers of tourists, who have bought a package holiday, visit a large resort.
Micro-credit	Where small loans are given to businessmen and women who are too poor to qualify for traditional bank loans.
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 .
Multiplier effect	An upward spiral of the economy and its benefits on employment.
Newly Industrialised Country (NIC)	Countries, such as India, which have a growing middle class, a strong manufacturing sector and rapid urban growth.
Self-help	Improvement projects carried out by ordinary people rather than by businesses or governments. Compare this to top-down development .

Trade and Aid

Bi-lateral aid	Financial support or the gift of food, clothing or other emergency support, that is given directly from the government of one country to another.
Development aid	Help which is given to tackle poverty and improve quality of life over the long term to improve education or health care.
Emergency aid	Help that is given urgently after a natural disaster or a conflict to protect the lives of the survivors.
Exports	The sale of goods or services to another country.
Fair trade	A deal in which workers in the producing country benefit from a reasonable rate of pay and decent working conditions.
Free trade	When countries trade without any limits to the amount of goods that can be exported and imported.
Import duty	A tax placed on goods brought into a country to make them more expensive and protect local industries. See tariffs .
Imports	The purchase of goods from another country.
Multi-lateral aid	Funding that involves many donor countries.
Quotas	Restrictions on the amount of particular goods that can be imported each year.
Subsidy	A payment that a country makes to its own farmers and businesses so that their goods can be sold at a lower price to consumers.
Tariffs	A type of tax, or import duty , charged on goods as they enter a country.
Trade blocs	Trading partnerships arranged between a group of countries. The European Union is one example.

Water resources

Abstraction	When water is taken from a river, reservoir or underground source to be used by people.
Aquifers	Rocks in the ground that are capable of holding large quantities of water
Drainage basin	The area a river collects its water from. This is also called a catchment area.
Groundwater store	Water in the ground below the water table.
Over-abstraction	When water is abstracted at a faster rate than it is recharged, leading to a store of water decreasing in size.
Rainwater harvesting	The collection and storage of rain water, for example, from the roof of a house.
Recharge	Water that enters an aquifer and refills a groundwater store.
Surface stores	Places where water is found on the surface such as lakes and rivers.
Water footprint	The amount of water used to make an item of food or make a product such as an item of clothing.
Water security	When a society has enough water to ensure that everyone has clean water, sanitation and good health and the economy has enough water to grow food and make things.
Water stress	When there is a shortage of water which creates risk for individuals, farmers or industries.
Water transfer	A scheme that allows large quantities of water to be moved from a place where there is plenty of water to a place that does not have enough.

Key Terms for Theme 8

Agri-businesses	Farming that is organised by large businesses - often by multi-national companies.
Agro-forestry	A type of farming in which a mixture of crop, shrubs, fruit trees and nut trees are grown.
Aquaculture	The commercial farming of fish and shellfish.
Biomes	Very large scale ecosystems e.g. tropical rainforests or deserts.
Consumers	A name used to describe people in wealthy economies who buy and use food, resources, energy and other stuff.
Consumerism	The theory that the consumption (use) of goods and services is a good thing because it benefits the economy.
Ecotourism	Small scale tourist projects that create money for conservation as well as creating local jobs.
Embedded energy	The amount of water or energy that is required to make a product.
E-waste	Electronic waste products such as computers and mobile phones.
Food miles	How far the food has been transported to get from producer to consumer
Greenhouse gases (GGs)	Gases such as carbon dioxide and methane. These gases are able to trap heat in the atmosphere.
Mono-culture	A type of agriculture (farming) in which only one crop is grown over very large areas of land.