

GCSE GEOGRAPHY VOCAB: THE CHALLENGE OF NATURAL HAZARDS

Tectonic hazards	
Constructive plate margin	Tectonic plate margin where rising magma adds new material to plates that are diverging or moving apart.
Destructive plate margin	Tectonic plate margin where two plates are converging or coming together and oceanic plate is subducted. It can be associated with violent earthquakes and explosive volcanoes.
Conservative plate margin	Tectonic plate margin where two tectonic plates slide past each other.
Earthquake	A sudden or violent movement within the Earth's crust followed by a series of shocks.
Hazard risk	The probability or chance that a natural hazard may take place.
Immediate responses	The reaction of people as the disaster happens and in the immediate aftermath.
Long-term responses	Later reactions that occur in the weeks, months and years after the event.
Monitoring	Recording physical changes, such as earthquake tremors around a volcano or tracking a tropical storm by satellite, to help forecast when and where a natural hazard might strike.
Natural hazard	A natural event (for example an earthquake, volcanic eruption, tropical storm, flood) that threatens people or has the potential to cause damage, destruction and death.
Plate margin	The margin or boundary between two tectonic plates.
Planning	Actions taken to enable communities to respond to, and recover from, natural disasters, through measures such as emergency evacuation plans, information management, communications and warning systems.
Prediction	Attempts to forecast when and where a natural hazard will strike, based on current knowledge. This can be done to some extent for volcanic eruptions (and tropical storms), but less reliably for earthquakes.
Primary effects	The initial impact of a natural event on people and property, caused directly by it, for instance the buildings collapsing following an earthquake.
Protection	Actions taken before a hazard strikes to reduce its impact, such as educating people or improving building design.
Secondary effects	The after-effects that occur as indirect impacts of a natural event, sometimes on a longer timescale, for instance fires due to ruptured gas mains resulting from the ground shaking.
Tectonic hazard	A natural hazard caused by movement of tectonic plates (including volcanoes and earthquakes).
Tectonic plate	A rigid segment of the Earth's crust which can 'float' across the heavier, semi-molten rock below. Continental plates are less dense, but thicker than oceanic plates.
Volcano	An opening in the Earth's crust from which lava, ash and gases erupt.

Weather hazards	
Economic impact	The effect of an event on the wealth of an area or community.
Environmental impact	The effect of an event on the landscape and ecology of the surrounding area.
Extreme weather	This is when a weather event is significantly different from the average or usual weather pattern, and is especially severe or unseasonal. This may take place over one day or a period of time. A severe snow blizzard or heat wave are two examples of extreme weather in the UK.

Global atmospheric circulation	The worldwide system of winds, which transports heat from tropical to polar latitudes. In each hemisphere, air also circulates through the entire depth of the troposphere which extends up to 15 km.
Management strategies	Techniques of controlling, responding to, or dealing with an event.
Social impact	The effect of an event on the lives of people or community.
Tropical storm (hurricane, cyclone, typhoon)	An area of low pressure with winds moving in a spiral around the calm central point called the eye of the storm. Winds are powerful and rainfall is heavy.

Climate change	
Adaptation	Actions taken to adjust to natural events such as climate change, to reduce potential damage, limit the impacts, take advantage of opportunities, or cope with the consequences.
Climate change	A long-term change in the earth's climate, especially a change due to an increase in the average atmospheric temperature.
Mitigation	Action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from natural hazards, such as building earthquake-proof buildings or making international agreements about carbon reduction targets.
Orbital changes	Changes in the pathway of the Earth around the Sun.
Quaternary period	The period of geological time from about 2.6 million years ago to the present. It is characterised by the appearance and development of humans and includes the Pleistocene and Holocene Epochs.