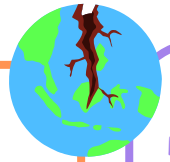
Name:

Key Terminology booklet for Geography – 28 core words everyone should learn Followed by key word posters for every unit	
Key word	Definition
Social	This is something to do with **people**. Therefore, a social effect would be an effect on people.
Economic	This is something to do with **money**. Therefore, an economic disadvantage of building a sea wall is that they are very expensive. Or an economic opportunity is an opportunity where people could make money.
Environmental	This is something to do with the **landscape or nature** of the surrounding area. E.g. habitat destruction or a landslide.
Political	This is something to do with the **government** or decision making.
Physical	Anything natural - mountains, rivers, coasts, weather, vegetation
Physical Feature	A landform e.g. spit, waterfall, interlocking spurs.
Human	Anything affected or created by humans – cities, roads, populations
Development	The growth of something in a positive way. Economic development usually means the average person becomes more wealthy, educational development means a person learns well.
Hard Engineering	Where something is constructed as a way to prevent floods or erosion. Examples include sea walls, rock armour, gabions, groynes, dams, artificial levees (embankments), diversion spillways.
Soft Engineering	Strategies that try to work with nature to prevent floods or erosion becoming hazardous. Examples include beach nourishment, dune regeneration, managed realignment, tree-planting, land-use zoning, river restoration.
Distribution	This means how something is spread out. E.g., Rainforests are distributed unevenly. They are mostly close to the equator.
Costs and benefits	If a question asks you about costs and benefits it means negatives (costs) and positives (benefits) of something. E.g., The loss of habitat for polar bears is a cost of global warming.
Opportunities	The good things that a place has, especially in terms of making money. The South-West USA has opportunities to make money through tourism, energy, mining and farming.

Name:

Challenges	The problems that people in a place face. In London this is things such as inequality, pollution and lack of housing. In the desert it is extreme heat, lack of water and isolation.
Sustainable	Meeting the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
Sustainable development	Developing a country economically without damaging the compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (often through not destroying the environment).
Rate	The speed at which something is happening. E.g., the rate of deforestation has slowed in Brazil. This means trees are still being chopped down but at a slower speed.
Relief	Shape of the land: how flat or hilly it is.
Sanitation	Keeping water clean and safe, treating sewage.
Regeneration	Putting the life back into a place, making it good again. It usually involves spending lots of money on new buildings, facilities.
Well-Being	How healthy people are, including social and mental health.
Demand	How much something is needed or wanted. There is a large demand for i-phones means that a lot of people want to buy them.
Supply	How much of something is available or provided. The supply of water is much higher in Wales than East Anglia.
Exploitation	This literally means “use”. We exploit resources to make things e.g., we exploit oil to make plastic.
Deficit	When there is not enough of something - London has a water deficit (less than it needs, so it brings water in from other places)
Surplus	When there is more than enough of something – Saudi Arabia has a surplus of oil (much more than it needs so it sells oil to other places)
Energy or water security	The ability to access energy or water at an affordable price without interruptions.
Interdependence	The way one thing is reliant on another. This might be two countries relying on each other’s products; a plant and an animal relying on each other; different groups of people in a city relying on each other.

Key Terms: Natural Hazards



Natural Hazards

Natural Hazard: A natural event that poses risks to people and property.
Types of Natural Hazards: Tectonic (e.g., earthquakes, volcanoes), atmospheric (e.g., storms), geomorphological (e.g., landslides), and biological (e.g., diseases).
Hazard Risk: The likelihood of a natural hazard affecting people or property, influenced by vulnerability, capacity to cope, and nature of the hazard.

Weather Hazards

Atmospheric Circulation: Movement of air in pressure belts, driving global weather patterns.
Tropical Storms: Intense low-pressure systems (hurricanes, cyclones, typhoons).
Formation of Tropical Storms: Warm seas, rising moist air, and spinning due to the Coriolis effect.
Features of Tropical Storms: Eye, eyewall, high winds, and heavy rainfall.
Effects of Tropical Storms:
- **Primary**: Flooding, infrastructure damage.
- **Secondary**: Disease, homelessness.

Responses to Tropical Storms:
- **Immediate**: Evacuation, aid distribution.
- **Long-Term**: Infrastructure rebuilding, risk education.

Climate Change and Storms: Increased frequency, intensity, and changes in distribution due to global warming.
UK Weather Hazards: Storms, floods, droughts, heatwaves, and snow.
Extreme Weather Example: Case study (e.g., 2018 UK Beast from the East):
- Causes, impacts (social, economic, environmental), and management strategies.

Evidence of Extreme Weather: More frequent & intense events in UK.

Tectonic Hazards

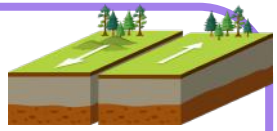


Plate Tectonics Theory: The Earth's crust is divided into plates that move due to mantle convection.
Plate Margins:
- **Constructive**: Plates move apart (e.g., Mid-Atlantic Ridge).
- **Destructive**: Plates collide, one subducts (e.g., Andes).
- **Conservative**: Plates slide past each other (e.g., San Andreas Fault).

Earthquake: Shaking caused by sudden movement of tectonic plates.
Volcanic Eruption: Release of magma, ash, and gases due to tectonic activity.
Primary Effects: Immediate impacts (e.g., destruction, injuries).
Secondary Effects: Indirect impacts (e.g., disease, economic losses).
Immediate Responses: Actions taken immediately after a hazard (e.g., rescue efforts).
Long-Term Responses: Measures to rebuild and reduce future risks (e.g., improved infrastructure).
Living in Hazard Zones: Reasons include fertile soil, economic opportunities, and cultural ties.
Risk Management:
- **Monitoring**: Observing signs of hazards.
- **Prediction**: Forecasting when hazards might occur.
- **Protection**: Building designs to withstand hazards.
- **Planning**: Preparing evacuation routes and emergency plans.

Climate Change

Quaternary Period: The last 2.6 million years, marked by glacial and interglacial periods.
Evidence of Climate Change: Rising temperatures, melting ice, and sea-level rise.
Causes of Climate Change:
- **Natural**: Orbital changes, volcanic activity, solar output.
- **Human**: Fossil fuel use, deforestation, agriculture.

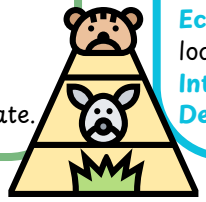
Effects of Climate Change:
- **People**: Displacement, food insecurity.
- **Environment**: Habitat loss, extreme weather.

Managing Climate Change:
- **Mitigation**: Reducing causes (e.g., renewable energy, reforestation).
- **Adaptation**: Responding to effects (e.g., flood defenses, changing farming practices).

Key Terms: The Living World

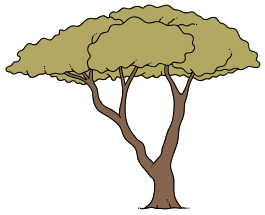
Ecosystems

Ecosystem: A community of interacting biotic (living) and abiotic (non-living) components.
Biotic: Living components of an ecosystem (e.g., plants, animals).
Abiotic: Non-living components of an ecosystem (e.g., soil, water, climate).
Producer: Organism that creates its own energy via photosynthesis.
Consumer: Organism that eats other organisms for energy.
Decomposer: Organism that breaks down dead material, recycling nutrients.
Food Chain: A linear sequence showing who eats whom in an ecosystem.
Food Web: A complex network of interconnected food chains.
Nutrient Cycling: The movement of nutrients through an ecosystem (e.g., soil, plants, animals, and decomposers).
Interdependence: The reliance of biotic and abiotic components on one another.
Balance of Components: The stability of interactions within an ecosystem.
Impact of Change: Effects on an ecosystem when a component is altered.
Biome: A large-scale ecosystem defined by climate, flora, and fauna.
Distribution of Biomes: Global patterns of biomes influenced by climate.



Tropical Rainforests

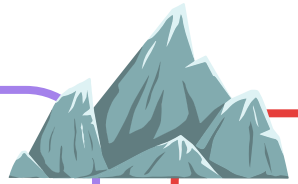
Tropical Rainforest: Dense forests found near the equator with high biodiversity.
Climate: Hot and wet all year round, with little seasonal variation.
Biodiversity: Variety of living organisms within an ecosystem.
Adaptation: Changes in plants and animals to survive specific conditions.
Canopy: Dense layer of tree tops that blocks sunlight in rainforests.
Emergent Layer: The tallest trees that rise above the canopy.
Understorey: Layer beneath the canopy, receiving limited sunlight.
Deforestation: Large-scale removal of trees, often for agriculture or industry.
Subsistence Farming: Small-scale farming for personal use.
Commercial Farming: Large-scale farming for profit.
Soil Erosion: Loss of soil due to deforestation or other human activities.
Climate Change: Long-term alterations in temperature and weather patterns, exacerbated by deforestation.
Sustainable Management: Methods of using resources without depleting them.
Selective Logging: Cutting only certain trees to reduce forest damage.
Replanting: Planting trees to replace those cut down.
Ecotourism: Tourism that promotes environmental conservation and benefits local communities.
International Agreements: Global efforts to regulate tropical hardwood use.
Debt Reduction: Cancellation of debts in return for rainforest conservation.



Hot Deserts

Hot Desert: Dry regions with extreme temperatures and minimal rainfall.
Climate: Hot during the day, cold at night, with less than 250mm annual rainfall.
Biodiversity: Low diversity due to extreme conditions.
Desertification: Land degradation in arid areas, making it more desert-like.
Mineral Extraction: Removal of valuable minerals from the desert environment.
Inaccessibility: Challenges in reaching or developing desert areas.
Water Management: Efficient use and storage of water to prevent waste.
Appropriate Technology: Sustainable tools and techniques suited to local conditions.

Key Terms: Physical Landscapes



UK Physical Landscapes

Upland Areas: High-altitude regions with rugged terrain, e.g., Scottish Highlands.
Lowland Areas: Flat or gently rolling landscapes, e.g., The Fens.
River Systems: Networks of rivers and their tributaries, e.g., River Severn.

River Landscapes

Long Profile: Gradient of a river from source to mouth.
Cross Profile: Cross-sectional shape of a river valley.
Hydraulic Action: Erosion by water force against riverbanks.
Solution: Dissolving of soluble materials.
Traction: Rolling of large particles along a riverbed.
Saltation: Bouncing of small particles along the riverbed.
Suspension: Sediment carried in water flow.
Interlocking Spurs: Projections of land in upper river valleys.
Waterfalls: Sudden drop in a river's course.
Gorges: Steep-sided valleys formed by river erosion.
Meanders: Curves in a river's course.
Ox-Bow Lakes: Cut-off meanders forming a lake.
Floodplains: Flat areas beside rivers prone to flooding.
Levées: Raised riverbanks formed by deposition.
Estuaries: Tidal areas where rivers meet the sea.
Flood Risk: Likelihood of flooding influenced by natural and human factors.
Hydrograph: Graph showing precipitation and river discharge over time.
Dams and Reservoirs: Hard engineering to control river flow.
Flood Warnings: Systems to alert communities of potential floods.
Floodplain Zoning: Restricting land use in flood-prone areas.

Coastal Landscapes

Waves: Movement of water caused by wind.
Constructive Waves: Low-energy waves depositing material.
Destructive Waves: High-energy waves causing erosion.
Weathering: Breakdown of rocks by physical or chemical processes.
Mechanical Weathering: Physical breakdown, e.g., freeze-thaw.
Chemical Weathering: Breakdown of rocks by chemical reactions, e.g., acid rain.
Mass Movement: Downhill movement of soil/rock, e.g., sliding, slumping.
Erosion: Breakdown and removal of rock.
Hydraulic Power: Erosion by the force of water.
Abrasion: Erosion caused by material scraping rock surfaces.
Attrition: Rocks breaking into smaller pieces.
Transportation: Movement of sediment.
Longshore Drift: Transport of material along a coastline by waves.
Deposition: Sediment dropped due to loss of energy.
Headland: Resistant rock jutting out into the sea.
Bay: Inward-curving coastline between headlands.
Wave-Cut Platform: Flat area of rock at the base of cliffs.
Caves, Arches, Stacks: Coastal features formed by erosion of headlands.
Beaches: Deposited sediment forming coastal landforms.
Sand Dunes: Hills of sand formed by wind.
Spits and Bars: Depositional features extending along the coast.
Sea Walls: Hard engineering structure to protect coasts.
Rock Armour: Large rocks placed on coasts to absorb wave energy.
Gabions: Wire cages filled with rocks to reduce erosion.
Groynes: Structures to trap sediment and reduce erosion.
Beach Nourishment: Adding sand to beaches.
Dune Regeneration: Restoring sand dunes to act as barriers.
Managed Retreat: Allowing controlled flooding of low-value land

Key Terms: Urban Issues & Challenges

Global Urban Trends

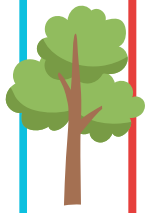
Urbanisation: Increase in the proportion of people living in urban areas.
HICs: High-income countries, typically more urbanised.
LICs: Low-income countries, experiencing rapid urbanisation.
NEEs: Newly emerging economies with fast-growing cities.
Push Factors: Reasons people leave rural areas (e.g., lack of jobs, poor services).
Pull Factors: Reasons people move to urban areas (e.g., better jobs, healthcare).
Natural Increase: Population growth when birth rates exceed death rates.
Megacities: Urban areas with populations exceeding 10 million.

Urban Change in the UK

Urban Distribution: Pattern of cities and population density in the UK.
Cultural Mix: Diversity of ethnicities and cultures in cities.
Recreation: Leisure and entertainment facilities in urban areas.
Integrated Transport: Systems linking different modes of transport (e.g., buses, trains).
Urban Greening: Creating green spaces like parks and tree-lined streets.
Urban Deprivation: Lack of basic services and opportunities in some urban areas.
Brownfield Sites: Previously developed land, often derelict, suitable for regeneration.
Greenfield Sites: Undeveloped land, often used for new housing or industrial sites.
Urban Sprawl: Expansion of urban areas into surrounding rural land.
Rural-Urban Fringe: Boundary zone where urban and rural areas meet.
Commuter Settlements: Towns where people live but travel to cities for work.

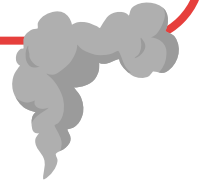
Urban Growth in LICs/NEEs

Social Opportunities: Access to services (e.g., education, healthcare) in cities.
Economic Opportunities: Job creation and economic growth in urban areas.
Slums: Poor, overcrowded urban settlements lacking basic services.
Squatter Settlements: Informal housing areas built without permission.
Sanitation Systems: Infrastructure for clean water and sewage disposal.
Urban Unemployment: Lack of jobs in fast-growing urban areas.
Urban Crime: Illegal activities in densely populated cities.
Environmental Challenges: Issues like waste disposal, air pollution, and traffic.
Urban Planning: Designing urban areas to improve living conditions.



Urban Regeneration and Sustainability

Urban Regeneration: Revitalising areas of a city to improve conditions.
Dereliction: Abandoned and deteriorating buildings or land.
Waste Recycling: Processing waste into reusable materials.
Water Conservation: Reducing water use and managing supply.
Energy Conservation: Efficient use of energy and renewable sources.
Green Spaces: Parks, gardens, and natural areas in cities.
Sustainable Urban Living: Meeting current urban needs without harming future generations.
Traffic Congestion: Overcrowding of vehicles causing delays and pollution.



Key Terms: Changing Economic World

Economic Development and Quality of Life

Economic Development: Progress in an economy, leading to improved living standards.
Quality of Life: General well-being, including economic, social, and environmental factors.
Gross National Income (GNI): Total income of a country, including income from abroad.
Birth Rate: Number of live births per 1,000 people per year.
Death Rate: Number of deaths per 1,000 people per year.
Infant Mortality: Number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births per year.
Life Expectancy: Average number of years a person is expected to live.
People per Doctor: Number of people served by one doctor.
Literacy Rate: Percentage of people who can read and write.
Human Development Index (HDI): Composite measure of GNI, life expectancy, and education.
Demographic Transition Model: Model showing population change as a country develops.

Reducing the Development Gap

Investment: Money spent in a country to improve infrastructure and industries.
Industrial Development: Growth of manufacturing to stimulate economic progress.
Tourism: Attracting visitors to generate income and jobs.
Aid: Financial or technical help provided by other countries or organizations.
Intermediate Technology: Simple, sustainable tools for local use.
Fairtrade: Ensuring fair wages and conditions for producers in developing countries.
Debt Relief: Cancellation of debts for poorer nations to free resources for development.
Microfinance Loans: Small loans to help individuals or small businesses.

Uneven Development

Physical Causes: Natural factors like climate, natural disasters, or resource availability.
Economic Causes: Trade imbalances or dependence on primary products.
Historical Causes: Colonialism or conflicts affecting development.
Wealth Disparity: Unequal distribution of income and resources globally.
Health Inequality: Differences in healthcare access and outcomes between regions.
International Migration: Movement of people across borders for better opportunities.

Economic Growth in LICs/NEEs

NEEs: Newly Emerging Economies experiencing rapid industrial growth.
Transnational Corporations (TNCs): Large companies operating in multiple countries.
Industrial Structure: Proportion of jobs in primary, secondary, and tertiary sectors.
Globalisation: Increasing interconnectedness of economies and cultures.
Trading Relationships: Economic exchanges between countries.
International Aid: Help given to improve development and quality of life

Economic Change in the UK

Deindustrialisation: Decline in manufacturing and heavy industry.
Post-Industrial Economy: Economy focused on services and technology.
Science and Business Parks: Areas designed for research and industry collaboration.
North-South Divide: Economic disparities between northern and southern regions in the UK.
Sustainable Industry: Environmentally friendly industrial practices.
Global Links: UK's connections through trade, culture, and organizations like the EU and Commonwealth.

Key Terms: Resource Management

Resource Management

Resources: Materials or energy sources needed for human survival and development.
Economic Well-Being: Access to resources boosting income and employment.
Social Well-Being: Improved quality of life through better health and education from resource access.
Global Inequalities: Uneven distribution of resources across the world.
Food Miles: Distance food travels from production to consumer, affecting carbon footprint.
Carbon Footprint: Total greenhouse gas emissions from a product or activity.
Agribusiness: Large-scale, industrial farming for profit.
Water Deficit: Areas where water demand exceeds supply.
Water Surplus: Areas where water supply exceeds demand.
Water Transfer: Moving water from surplus to deficit areas via pipelines or rivers.
Energy Mix: Proportions of energy sources (fossil fuels, renewables) used by a country.
Fossil Fuels: Non-renewable energy sources like coal, oil, and gas.
Renewable Energy: Sustainable energy sources, e.g., solar, wind, hydro.
Energy Security: Reliable access to affordable energy.

Energy Demand and Supply

Energy Surplus: Areas where energy production exceeds consumption.
Energy Deficit: Areas where energy demand exceeds supply.
Energy Security: Reliable and affordable access to energy sources.
Energy Insecurity: Lack of stable and sufficient energy supply.
Global Distribution: Uneven patterns of energy consumption and production worldwide.
Rising Demand: Increased energy use due to population growth, economic development, and technological advancements.
Physical Factors: Natural conditions, such as resource availability, affecting energy supply.
Political Factors: Government policies and international relations influencing energy access.

Impacts of Energy Insecurity

Environmental Costs: Damage from exploiting sensitive areas, e.g., Arctic drilling.
Economic Costs: High expenses for energy exploration and production.
Food Production: Reduced crop yields from energy-related issues like biofuel production.
Industrial Output: Decline in manufacturing due to energy shortages.
Conflict: Tensions over access to energy resources.

Increasing Energy Supply and Sustainability

Renewable Energy: Sustainable sources like solar, wind, and hydro.
Non-Renewable Energy: Finite sources like fossil fuels and nuclear power.
Biomass: Organic material used as fuel.
Energy Conservation: Reducing energy use through efficiency and technology.
Sustainable Design: Energy-efficient homes, workplaces, and transport.
Demand Reduction: Strategies to lower energy consumption.
Local Renewable Schemes: Small-scale projects in LICs/NEEs using sustainable energy sources.