**IGCSE GEOGRAPHY KEYWORDS**

**Exam words (command words)**

**compare** - outline the similarities or differences
**conflict** - an argument or difference of opinion
**describe** - outline the main features or characteristics
**distribution** - the spread throughout a country or region
**economic** - to do with money and wages
**explain** - give reasons
**gathering technique** - a way of collecting information
**hierarchy** - a list in order of size or importance
**identify** - point out and name
**illustrate** - give an example of
**justify** - give a good reason for
**land use** - the way the land is used
**location** - where something is
**model** - a simplified version of some feature, e.g. a city, in the real world
**outline** - describe the main features or characteristics
**processing technique** - reorganising information so it is more
easily understood
**questionnaire** - a list of questions which have been devised to obtain information, opinions and/or ideas.
**Rank** - put in order of size
**relationships** - links
**sampling** - taking a representative selection of measurements
**state** - name or give
**suggest** - put forward ideas or give an opinion
**technique** - a way of collecting or processing information

**Population Dynamics**

**Population** a group of people within an area

**Distribution** the spatial property of being scattered about over an area or volume

**Densely** an area with lots of people living in it

**Sparsley** an area that has a few people living in it

**Birth rate** number of births in a year per 1,000 population

**Death rate** number of deaths in a year per 1,000 population

**Infant mortality** the number of babies out of every thousand that dies before the age of one

**Demographics** the statistics of a population e.g. age, income, education

**Demographic transition model** the transition of high birth rates and death rates to low birth rates and death rates that occurs as part of the economic development of a country from a pre industrial to a post industrial economy

**Migration** the movement of persons from one country or locality to another

**Push factors** things that make people want to leave an area

**Pull factors** things that encourage a person to an area

**Immigrant** a person who leaves one country to permanently settle in another

**Migrant** a person who leaves his/her country of origin to seek residence in another country

**Emigrate**when a person leaves there country of origin to settle in another country

**Migrate** when a person moves from one country to another and settles there

**Refugee** a person who has been forced to leave his/her home because of fear of persecution

**Dependency ration** the ration of people who defined as dependant (under 15 years old and above 64 years old)

**Population pyramid** a bar graph showing the population divided into males and females in different age groups

**Census** the process of obtaining information from every member of a population

**Policy**  a plan of action adopted by a individual or a social groups

**Aging population** occurs when the average age of a population is getting older

**Life expectancy** the average number of years a person is expected to live

## [Settlement](http://gorgeousgeography.wordpress.com/gcse/gcse-settlement-vocabulary/)

**Site** the physical land on which a settlement is built

**Situation** the settlement in relation to its surrounding area

**Wet-point sites** the site of a settlement close to a water supply such as a spring line settlement on chalk escarpment

**Dry-point sites** the site of a settlemetn which avoids land prone to flooding such as a gravel mound or the valley side

**Bridging points** a settlement located where a river is forded or bridged

**Route Focus** where communications focus i.e. roads and railways converge

**Catchment area** the area that a school, shop or settlement serves

**Hinterland** the area surrounding a settlement, port etc

**Convenience goods** goods which are cheap and bought frequently e.g. furniture

**Comparison goods** goods which are expensive and bought less frequently e.g. furniture

**Communter villages** villages on the outskirts of a town or city

**Millionaire cities** cities with over 1 million people where people live but travel to work in the city

**Megacities** cities with over 5 million people

**Informal sector** in LEDC’s many people work in the informal sector as shoeshine boys, servants etc

**Urban land uses** the use of land in towns and cities

**Zones** areas of land with similar uses

**Central Business District (CBD)** the heart of a city where the financial and business interests are

**Morphology** the arrangement of land uses in an urban area.  Different land uses tend to be in distinct zones rather than jumbled up

**Burgess’ model** a model of urban structure

**Hoyt’s model** a model of urban structure

**Inner city** the urban zone outside the CBD in MEDC’s

**Suburbs** a mainly residential area outside of the innter city in MEDC’s

**Rural-urban fringe** on the outskirts of an urban area beyond the suburbs where there is a mixture of rural land uses and urban land uses

**Recreational facilities** sports fields, clubs and leisure complexes

**Industrial estates** zones of light industry often on the fringes of towns

**Core of the CBD** the heart of the CBD where the large department stores are located

**Frame of the CBD** the outer area of the CBD with smaller shops and offices

**Decentralization** the outward movement of shops and offices from the CBD to the suburbs

**Self Help Schemes** in LEDCs people who live in shanty towns often improve their homes by building them

**Periferia** a housing zone in Sao Paulo where shanties have been upgraded

**Green Belt** an area of land around a large town or city protected from development in an attempt to halt the expansion of towns into the coutryside.

**Rivers and Weathering**

**Abrasion**

Abrasion is a form of erosion caused by rubbing of fine particles against an object. The effect is much the same as using sandpaper. Rivers carry sediment (fine rock particles) that abrade the banks and bed of the river channel.

**Attrition** The wearing away of particles of rock as they bounce along the riverbed or knock against each other and wear away becoming more rounded.

**Alluvium** The name for any material deposited by a river. (Silt is tiny material carried by running water)

**Bank** The ground at the side of a river

**Basin** (Drainage basin) The area of land that is drained by a river and its tributaries.

**Bed** (riverbed) The riverbed is the ground at the bottom of the river - often made up of sand and stones.

**Canal** An artificial or man-made river channel.

**Channel** A groove in the land that a river flows along.

**Cliff** (river cliff) A cliff is any steep slope that has been formed by natural processes. Cliffs reated by rivers are called river cliffs. They are on the outside of the curving section (meander) or a river and may be from a few metres to hundreds of metres high. Cliffs are formed when rivers cut swiftly into the land.

**Current** The flow of the river.

**Confluence** Where two rivers or streams meet.

**Dam** A barrier built, usually across a watercourse, for holding back water or diverting the flow of water.

**Delta** A fan-shaped area of sediment built up at the mouth of a river.

**Deposition** A river lays down or drops the sediment or material that it is carrying such as sand, mud, and small stones or sticks. This often happens on the inside of meanders, because the water is flowing slowly.

**Depth** How deep the water is.

**Discharge** The amount of water flowing in a river per second.

**Dock** A place for vessels to load and unload cargo or to be repaired.

**Downstream** The direction that the river flows, towards the mouth of the river.

**Drainage Basin** The area of land that is drained by a river and its tributaries. The boundary of a river basin is called the watershed.

**Erosion** The wearing away, in this case by water and rocks constantly rubbing

**Estuary** A drowned river valley in a coastal lowland area. Occurs near or at the mouth of a river, where the tide meets the current and the fresh and salt waters mix.

**Flood** Flooding happens when a river has too much water in its channel. The water breaks through the river banks and spreads over the surrounding land.

**Flood barrier** A barrier forming a temporary dam that may be erected quickly or permanently alongside a river to protect a flood-prone area.

**Floodplain** The flood plain is the flat land of the river valley close to the river banks. The floodplain is usually found in the lower course of a river. It is a fertile area of land, used for agriculture and growing crops.

**Ford** A point where a road goes through a river.

**Freshwater** Water that has no salt in it

**Gorge** A gorge is a steep-sided river valley which is very narrow and deep. Most gorges have rocky sides. The river cuts this deep valley by erosion. Gorges are created over thousands of years.

**Hydraulic Action** The force of the water wears away the river bank from underneath

**Irrigation** The supply of water to farmland so that crops can grow in areas wherewater supplies are scarce or unreliable. In areas where there is not much rainfall, farmers irrigate the land, by diverting water from rivers to their fields, in channels, ditches or pipes.

**Load** What the river carries along with it - mud, sand, rocks, wood

**Meander** A bend in a river - usually in the middle or lower course. The meander continually changes shape as the fast flowing current of water erodes the outside bank of the meander bend and deposition occurs in the slack water of the inside of the bend.

**Mouth** The end of the river. The mouth may be where the river meets the sea, a lake or a larger waterway. Most rivers flow out into the sea, and this is where they end their journey.

**Mudflats** Mudflats are large area of mud that the tide washes over twice each day. They are rich in plant and animal life.

**Oxbow lake**  A small arc-shaped lake formed when a meander is sealed off by deposition. Oxbows are only found on river floodplains.

**Plunge pool** A pool at the foot of a small water-fall in a river. The pool is deep because the water plunging into it has eroded the river bed.

**Pollution** Materials that are not supposed to be in the river make it dirty.

**Precipitation**  A general term for all forms of water particles ­ rain, snow, sleet, dew, hail etc.

**Rapids** Rapids are fast-flowing stretches of water formed where the river surface breaks up into waves because rocks are near to the surface.

**Ravine**  Another name for a narrow gorge.

**Reservoir** A reservoir is an artificial lake created by building a dam across a river.

**River** A river is a naturally winding watercourse that drains surplus water from a drainage basin.

**River channels** The trenches in which rivers flow for most of the year.

**Runoff**  Water that has from something. Usually rain water that has a roof into a gutter, or run - off sloping ground into a channel or pond.

**Saline** Salty water - water from the sea is known as saltwater, or saline

**Saltation** Particles bouncing down a river bed. This process causes attrition, and adds to the silt and sediment in the river

**Sediment** The name given to material that has been carried by rivers or the sea and then deposited. Sediment may be called alluvium if it deposited on the bed or a river, it may be called a beach when deposited by waves.

**Silt** Tiny pieces of sand or rocks. These are dropped by the water on the inside of a meander where the current is slow

**Source** where the stream begins: usually where there is a spring, and quite high up

**Spring** A place where water naturally seeps or gushes from the ground - often in marsh or bog areas

**Spur** A ridge of land that extends partly across a valley.

**Transportation** A process where the river moves, or transports materials (it's load) from one place to another.

**Tributary** A stream or river that feeds into a larger watercourse.

**Upstream** Opposite to the currents flow - towards the source of the river

**Valley**  A valley is a long trough in the landscape that has been eroded by a river or a combination of river and glacier action.

**V-shaped valleys** are usually found in the mountains and hills. They are so called because they often have very steep sides.

**Watershed** High ground that surrounds a drainage basin. The boundary of a river basin.

**Waterfall** A place where the river course is interrupted by a tall step.

**Water table**  The water table is the natural level of water in a soil or rock. Below the water table the soil or rock is saturated.

**Agricultural systems**

**Agribusiness** - farms operated by large companies, e.g. Findus, Bird’s Eye.

**Appropriate Technology** – technology that is appropriate to the needs, skills, knowledge and wealth of the people.

**Arable** – growing of crops, e.g. wheat, barely.

**Biodiversity** - a rich range of plants and animals.

**Cash Crops** – crops that are grown to be sold for profit.

**Chagra  –** a clearing in the Amazon rainforest.

**Climate** – the average weather conditions of an area.

**Commercial** – the sale of farm products for profit.

**Double or Multiple Cropping** – Where two or more crops are produced on the same land in one year.

**Eutrophication** – the loss of oxygen in streams and lakes, caused by chemical pollution.

**Extensive Farm**- Farm system with low inputs and outputs per land area, usually practised over a large total area, e.g. hill sheep farming in Wales.

**Green Revolution** – Large increase in food production due to the introduction of new, high-yielding varieties of seeds.

**High-tech Farming** – Using modern machinery and computers to farm.

**High-yielding Varieties (HYV)** –Crops that have been specially developed to produce very high yields, e.g. IR8 rice.

**Inbye**- The flatter land close to the farm in the valley floor in hill sheep areas.

**Inputs** – Physical and human raw materials that go into a farming system.

**Intensive Farm** – Farm system with high inputs and outputs per land area, usually practised on a small area of land, e.g. market gardening in Kent, rice growing in Asia.

**Irrigation** – The artificial watering of land, using sprinklers, canals, sprays, etc.

**Mixed Farm** – Single farm where crops are grown and animals also reared.

**Outputs** - The end products of a farm system.

**Pastoral** – The rearing of animals.

**Processes** – Activities required to turn inputs into outputs.

**Relief** – The height and shape of the land.

**Salinization** – Increase in the salt content in soils due to overuse of irrigation water.

**Self-sufficient** – When people can produce all the foodstuffs they need.

**Soil Erosion**- Loss of topsoil through erosion by wind and water.

**Soil** – The thin layer of weathered material and organic matter on the land surface.

**Staple Crop** – Main food crop, e.g. rice in Bangladesh.

**Industrial Systems**

**capital** **intensive** - an industry that spends a lot of money on equipment and machinery, and employs few workers
**extractive industry** - quarrying and mining
**footloose Industry** - one that is not tied to a particular location
**Greenfield site** - land that has not previously been built on
**heavy Industry** - making large, heavy goods using raw materials such as coal and iron e.g. shipbuilding
**high tech Industry** - one that uses advanced equipment to make goods e.g. computer chips
**industrial estate** - a planned industrial area, often with ready made factory units
**industrial Inertia** - when an industry stays in an area after the reasons for it being there have gone
**labour intensive** - an industry that requires a lot of workers
**light industry** - making small goods with small amounts of raw materials e.g. jewellery
**primary industry** - one which collects resources provided by nature e.g. farming, forestry, fishing and mining (Take)
**quaternary industry** - one which provides information and advice e.g. research laboratory
**raw materials** - items used to make another product
**secondary Industry** - a manufacturing industry (make)
**service industry** - provides a service to people or other industries e.g. transport, retail. Also known as **tertiary** industry (serve)

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| **Plate Tectonics - Glossary** |
| Acid Lava | Thick viscous lava which flows short distances |
| Basic Lava | Thin , runny lava which can flow long distances |
| Composite Volcano | Steep sided cone with layers of ash and lava |
| Convergent Margin | This is where two plates move together |
| Core | The centre of the earth |
| Crater | The mouth of the volcano |
| Crust | The thin layer of the earth's surface |
| Earthquake | A shaking of the earth's crust |
| Epicentre | The point within the earth's crust where the earthquake occurred |
| Focus | The point on the earth's surface directly above the epicentre |
| Fold Mountains | Mountains formed by the earth's movements |
| Geosynclines | A depression between two plates |
| Lava | The name given to liquid magma when it reaches the surface of the earth |
| Mantle | The molten rock that surrounds the earth's core |
| Richter Scale | This measures the strength of the earthquake |
| Shield Volcano | A gentle sided volcano with a wide base made up of basic lava |
| Subduction Zone | Where a plate sinks and slides under another plate |
| Tectonic Plate | A huge section of the earth's crust |
| Divergent Margin  | Where two plates move apart |
| Tsunami | Huge waves that are caused by submarine earthquakes |
| Vent | The opening through which the lava flows in a volcano |
| Volcano | A cone shaped mountain created by lava and ash being erupted from the earth |

**Weather, Climate and Vegetation**

**air pressure** - the force exerted by air on the earth's surface
**air stream** - a moving current of air
**anemometer** - an instrument for measuring wind speed
**anticyclone** - a high pressure system that brings settled weather
**barometer** - an instrument for measuring air pressure
**barograph** - an instrument for recording air pressure
**Beaufort scale** - a scale of wind speed
**cold front** - the boundary in front of cold air
**depression** - a low pressure system that brings unsettled weather
**humidity** - the amount of water vapour in the atmosphere
**isobar** - a line joining places with equal air pressure
**millibar** - is a unit of pressure used in recording air pressure; also known as hectopascals
**occluded front** - where a cold front overtakes a warm front in a depression
**okta** - an eighth of the sky covered in cloud
**precipitation** - moisture from the atmosphere in the form of rain, sleet, hail, snow and dew
**radiosonde** - an instrument carried by a balloon which measures elements of the weather in the upper atmosphere
**rain gauge** - the instrument for measuring precipitation
**Stevenson screen** - a white wooden box on legs which holds weather instruments
**sunshine recorder** - the instrument for measuring sunshine
**synoptic chart** - a map which shows weather conditions
**temperature** - how hot or cold it is
**warm front** - the boundary in front of warm air
**warm sector** - the wedge of warm air in a depression
**weather station** - is a site where different elements of the weather are measured and recorded
**weather station** **symbol** - is a series of symbols which show
the weather at one particular spot
**wind** **vane** - an instrument for measuring wind direction

**Climate and Vegetation**

**altitude** - the height above sea level
**climate** - the average of the weather conditions, usually measured over 30 years
**desert** - an area with very low rainfall, usually less than 250 nun a year **drought** - a long period of dry weather
**equatorial climate** - a hot and wet climate found in many places near the equator
**extreme climate** - a climate with a large range of temperature between the hottest and coldest months
**hot desert climate** - a hot, dry climate which is generally experienced on the western sides of continents around 30 north and south of the equator
**Mediterranean climate** - a warm climate with dry sununers
**rainfall pattern** - the distribution of rainfall throughout a year
**seasonal rainfall** - is rainfall which occurs mostly during one part of a year
**temperature range** - the difference between the highest and lowest temperatures
**Tundra climate** - a cold and dry climate found in the north of Canada and Russia

**Marine Processes**

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| **Arch**6MayIntCrete1-0286 | An opening through a headland with rock above and on both sides of it. |
| **Attrition**pebbles | A process of erosion. The pebbles are reduced in size. Small pebbles are easier to transport away. |
| **Beach**pbr_lil_beach | A gently sloping area of sand and shingle along the edge of the sea.  |
| **Cave**smoo | An area , at the bottom of a cliff, which has been hollowed out by the waves.(hollowed = cut)  |
| **Cliff**cliff%2520north%2520of%2520Monterey | A rock face, often vertical, next to the sea.(vertical means: straight up) |
| **constructive wave** | A low wave, with a strong wash, which breaks gently encouraging deposition of beach materials(Deposition = Drops) |
| **Corrasion**corrasion1_tn3 | A process of erosion caused by waves throwing pebbles against the cliff face; this can also be called abrasion. |
| **Corrosion**pict1 | A process of erosion by which some rocks dissolve by chemical action.(dissolve = melt) |
| **Destructive wave**tsumami | A high wave, with strong backwash, which breaks frequently causing erosion. |
| **Hydraulic power** | A process of erosion by the weight and force of the water. |
| **Spit**beach12 | A long, narrow ridge of sand and shingle. It is attached to the land but ends in the open sea. It has been formed by Long Shore Drift. |
| **Stack**7_clip_image044_0001 | A piece of rock surrounded by sea. It is left standing away from the main coastline after erosion of the headland from the shore by the sea. |
| **Wave-cut platform**S209%20%20look'g%20S%20slough%20&%20WCP%20between%20Todhead%20&%20Slainges | A gently sloping area of flat rocks which is exposed at low tide.(exposed = can be seen) |
| **Bay**coogeecliffs | An area cut back between two headlands, often circular in shape and lined by a beach.(Circular: from the word Circle) |
| **Fetch** | The distance over which the wind has blown before the wave breaks next to the coast. |
| **Headland**6535-headland-rocks | A rocky area which sticks out into the sea making it a prominent feature.(Prominent: you can see it easily) |
| **Long shore drift**drift | The current which transports materials, such as mud, sand and pebbles, along the coastline.(current: flowing)(transports: carries) |
| **Notch** | Overhang at the bottom of a cliff which shows undercutting by the waves. |
| **Coastal defences** | To stop the coast being lost man made protection is built along the coastline to stop the land being eroded away. |
| **Groynes**040618_cbrown_mp_geo_groyne | Wooden walls built out into the sea to trap the beach and stop the sand being lost by wave action. |
| **Beach replenishment**beachrep2_03 | Replacing sand lost to the waves and sea on a beach with more sand from some where else. |