

The Geography Dictionary



the
LatimerArts
College

Year 7

Topic 1: Biomes

Adaptation	A characteristic or trait that helps an organism such as a plant or animal survive
Arid	Dry. An arid region receives less than 250mm of rain per year
Biome	A large-scale ecosystem with unique community of plants and animals
Deciduous	Trees which lose their leaves for a period of the year
Desertification	The process of soil becoming infertile resulting in lack of vegetation
Producer	A plant or organism which produces its own energy
Primary Consumer	An animal or organism which eats a producer
Secondary Consumer	An animal or organism which eats a Primary Consumer
Xerophytic	Plants which are adapted to dry environments
Omnivore	An animal which eats both meat and plant material

Topic 2: Where we live

Cartographer	A person who draws or produces maps
Choropleth map	A map which uses a scale of colour to display data
Continent	A large continuous area of land.

Contour line	A line that shows an area of equal height
Direction	Where things are in relation to others using compass points
Grid reference	A four or six figure number used to give the location of a place
Latitude	A line that shows how far North or South a place is
Longitude	A line that shows how far East or West a place is
Rural	An area of countryside
Scale	Ratio of the distance on a map to the distance in real life
Urban	A city or town and the surrounding built up area

Topic 3: Weather and climate

Altitude	The height above or below sea level in metres or feet
Air pressure	The weight of the atmosphere on the surface of the earth
Climate	The long-term pattern of weather
Clouds	A mass of water droplets gathered around dust particles and other nuclei

Depression	An area of low pressure which moves from West to East in Northern Hemisphere
Forecast	A prediction of future weather conditions based on gathered data
Front	A boundary which separates two different air masses
Relief	The changes in height over an area of land
Precipitation	Water droplets released from clouds in form of rain, sleet, snow or hail
Weather	Day to day changes in the state of the atmosphere.

Topic 4: Population and Migration

Ageing	Where the proportion of older people is growing
Dense	Where there are lots of people in an area
Density	The number of people in a given area
Distribution	Where something is found
Overpopulation	Where there are more people than there are resources available
Population	The total number of people living in a country or place
Settlement	A place where people live
Sparse	Where there are few people in a given area

Migration	The movement of people
Youthful	Where the proportion of younger people is increasing

Topic 5: Water

Condensation	Where water vapour gas cools into liquid water
Deforestation	The process of chopping down trees
Drainage basin	The area where all rainfall will drain into the same river
Evaporation	Where liquid water is heated and turns to water vapour gas
Groundwater	Water that is stored underground in the bedrock
Infiltration	Water moves into the soil from the surface
Over abstraction	Too much water is taken from a source than can be replaced
Scarcity	A lack of water
Transboundary	A feature or issue that involves more than one country
Transpiration	Water leaving a plant through its leaves

Topic 6: Local Area Enquiry Fieldwork

Conclusion	Summary of what you found out in your fieldwork
Correlation	A pattern which shows two factors to be connected
Environmental quality	A group of characteristics and their potential effects on physical and mental health
Evaluation	Identifying successes and challenges with the data collection
Graph	A visual presentation of data collected
Housing	Buildings where people live
Hypothesis	A statement which can be tested through fieldwork
Primary data	Data or information you collect yourself
Secondary data	Data or information that you use from an organisation or someone else.
Traffic	The movement of vehicles through a place

Topic 7: Rivers

Erosion	Material is broken down and moved away
Flooding	Where normally dry areas are covered in water

Deposition	Sediment is dropped as a result of low energy
Long profile	The side view of a river's journey from source to mouth
Lower course	The flat and wide end section of the river near the mouth
Middle course	The largely flat section of the river between upper and lower course
Mouth	The end of the river where it meets the sea
Source	The start of the river in upland areas
Transportation	Different ways sediment moves in a river
Upper course	The upland section of the river near the source

Year 8

Topic 1: Incredible cities

Burgess model	A diagram showing different zones and their land use in a city
Challenges	A problem or something which is difficult to solve

Desalination	An expensive process which removes salt from sea water to create freshwater
Multiplier effect	The process of economic activity generating a domino effect to create more economic activity. E.g. People with jobs will spend their money in local shops.
Pull factor	Something that attracts people to live there e.g. better jobs
Push factor	Something that causes people to leave a place e.g. Conflict
Opportunities	A positive factor which could lead to economic, social or environmental gain
Regeneration	An older area is given financial investment to become more modern and suited to current needs
Sustainability	The ability of an action to meet the needs of today without negatively impacting the future
Urbanisation	The process of more people moving to cities than the countryside

Topic 2: Africa

Colonisation	Process of settling in a country and establishing control or government over the indigenous people.
Development	The improvement of social, economic and environmental factors in a country
Equator	The line that divides the northern and southern hemispheres
Imperialism	The idea and belief that a country can gain control over another
Infrastructure	Basic facilities which are needed for the operation of a society e.g. roads, electricity lines
Natural resource	A material which is found naturally in a place which can be taken and used or sold e.g. Oil, timber
Precious metals	Metals with only small amounts in the world which are commonly used in jewellery, industry and mobile phones
Savannah	Grasslands with few trees and drought tolerant plants which sit between the equator and the tropics
Slum	An informal settlement of houses often built from scrap materials.
Trade	The action of giving countries a material in exchange for money

Topic 3: Sustainability

Agriculture	The practice of farming to grow crops or raise animals
Climate change	Long term changes in temperature and weather patterns
Dendrochronology	The study of tree rings to approximately determine previous temperatures and rainfall
Environment	The surroundings in which humans, plants and animals live
Fossil Fuels	Fuels made from decomposing plants and animals which release Carbon Dioxide when burnt
Greenhouse effect	The effect where gases in our atmosphere trap heat from the sun. The more gas molecules, the more heat is trapped.
Greenhouse gas	A gas which has the ability to trap heat from the sun in our atmosphere
Ice age	A period of cooler global temperatures where ice is present in the Arctic and Antarctic.
Mitigation	An action taken to prevent further changes in climate e.g. Using

	renewables to reduce future CO2 emissions
Megafauna	Very large animals associated with the Pleistocene epoch

Topic 4: Tectonic Hazards

Composite	A cone shaped volcano built from layers of hardened lava and tephra
Core	The deepest layer of the earth which can reach 5000-6000 C and is made of iron and nickel
Crust	The outer thin layer of the Earth. This can be oceanic or continental.
Focus	The point underground where energy is released when plates or fault lines slip
Mantle	The semi-molten layer of the earth that sits under the crust
Plate boundary	The point where different tectonic plates meet each other.
Primary effect	Something that happens as a direct result of an event e.g. Buildings collapsing
Secondary effect	Something that happens as a result of a primary effect e.g. Homelessness

Shield volcano	A flat volcano that appears like a shield from above. Made from highly fluid like lava.
Tectonic plates	The large areas of the earths' crust which have been broken up into separate pieces.

Topic 5: Hydro-meteorological hazards and Cryosphere

Ablation	The removal of snow or ice by melting or evaporation
Accumulation	The build up of snow and ice through precipitation
Cryosphere	The parts of the earth's surface which are covered in ice
Drought	A long period with abnormally low or no rainfall
Floodplain	The area in the lower course which the river occasionally covers especially after heavy rainfall.
Glacier	A frozen mass or river of ice
Meteorology	The study of weather and the atmosphere
Moraine	Rocks and sediment carried and deposited by a glacier,
Tropical storm	An intense low-pressure wind system formed in the tropics. Also known as Hurricane, Typhoon and Cyclone

Storm Surge	A short-term rising of the sea as a result of wind and atmospheric pressure changes in a storm
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Topic 6: Coasts

Abrasion	Where small particles rub against a surface and wear it down
Attrition	Two particles knock against each other and break the other down
Constructive wave	Small and less powerful waves which deposit sediment on the beach.
Destructive wave	Larger more frequent waves which erode sediment from the beach.
Fetch	The distance a wave can travel
Headland	An area of harder rock which reaches out from the land
Hydraulic action	Where water and air are pushed into cracks breaking the rock apart.
Longshore drift	The process where sediment is moved down the beach by repeated movements of swash and backwash.
Solution (Corrosion)	Chemicals in the water dissolve the rock

Spit	An area of sand or sediment extending beyond the land, formed by longshore drift.
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Year 9

Topic 1: Foundation Unit

Afforestation	The planting of trees where none have been before
Anomaly	An odd one out, something which doesn't match the trend
Cattle ranching	Large farms which raise cows for food production or leather
Coral bleaching	The process where coral is cooked and dies due to high sea temperatures and becomes white.
Crude Oil	A thick dark liquid which is drilled from reservoirs under the surface. It is a fossil fuel.
Deindustrialisation	Where factories and industry move away from an area, often to places abroad.

NIC	Newly Industrialised Countries which started manufacturing from 1980s onwards.
Sketch map	A basic drawing done in pencil with annotations to highlight geographical features
Soil degradation	The physical, chemical and biological decline in soil quality
TNC	Transnational corporation – A company that has operations in multiple countries

Paper 2: Evolving physical landscapes: Coasts

Accretion	The process of gradual growth or increase in size, often referring to the accumulation of sediment along a shoreline
Beach profile	The cross-sectional shape or contour of a beach.
Brackish	A mixture of saltwater and freshwater
Coastal defences	Structures or measures put in place to protect the coastline from erosion and flooding, such as sea walls and breakwaters.
Concordant coastline	A coastline where alternating layers of rock run parallel to the coastline.

Discordant coastline	A coastline where different rock layers are oriented in an alternating pattern along the coastline leading to headlands and bays
Prevailing wind	The dominant and most commonly occurring winds in a particular region or location over an extended period.
Sub-aerial	The processes that affect the Earth's surface above water level, such as weathering, mass movement, and erosion.
Shoreline management plan (SMP)	A plan to protect a section of coast which considers environmental conservation, flood protection, and sustainable land use.
Wave refraction	The bending of waves as they approach a coastline, causing them to change direction around headlands and into bays.

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Paper 2: Evolving human landscapes

Enterprise zones	Regions set up by the government to encourage businesses to move in. Often have lower tax rates and new purpose-built offices.
Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)	When a business or person in one country invests in business located in another country.
Globalisation	Process of increasing interconnection between people and places. This is driven by trade, migration, technology and culture.
Immigration	The permanent movement of people to live in a country which is different to their home country.
Net migration	The difference between the number of migrants moving into a country and the number of migrants moving out of the country
Primary industry	Industry associated with producing raw materials and crops, for example farmers or miners.
Privatisation	Essential services that are taken over by a private company from the government e.g. railway companies.

Population density	The amount of people per square area of land. It is a measure of how squashed together or spread out a population is.
Quaternary industry	Industry relating to technology, design, research and development e.g. gaming and robotics.
Trade bloc	A group of countries which join together to promote trade between themselves.

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Paper 3: People and Biosphere

Abiotic	Non-living environmental factors e.g. Climate, light exposure, soil
Biotic	Living environmental factors e.g. Plants, animals, bacteria
Malthusian theory	A theory which suggests the needs of a growing population will always be met through innovation.

Carbon sequestration	Long-term capture and storage of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
Coniferous forest biome (Taiga/Boreal)	A biome located at high latitudes, characterised by conifer trees and a cold climate.
Eutrophication	The growth of algae in a body of water due to excess nutrients, leading to the depletion of oxygen in an aquatic ecosystem.
Hydrological cycle	The continuous transfer of water throughout Earth.
Malthusian theory	The theory that increasing population growth will lead to resources being dangerously low or running out.
Nutrient cycling	Transfer of nutrients through an ecosystem, from decay into the production and energy of living organisms.
Transpiration	The evaporation of water from leaves through the stomata.

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Paper 3: Consuming Energy Resources

Biofuel	A fuel derived from living matter, often used to describe fuels created by processing plants or cow manure into liquid fuel.
Carbon capture and storage (CCS)	A process to capture carbon dioxide emissions from industrial processes and store them underground
Carbon footprint	The total amount of carbon dioxide (CO ₂) emitted directly or indirectly by an individual, organization, or product.
Energy dependency	A state in which a country or entity relies heavily on external sources of energy
Energy mix	The combination of energy sources to generate electricity and meet energy demands in a given region or country.
Energy security	Ensuring a reliable and stable supply of energy resources to meet the needs of a country or organization
Non-renewable	Energy resources that are finite and deplete over time, such as coal, oil, and natural gas.
Nuclear energy	Energy generated through nuclear reactions, such as fission or fusion
Renewable	Energy derived from sources that can be naturally replenished or won't run out, such

	as solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal energy.
Tar sands	Mixtures of bitumen, sand, clay, and water, requiring energy-intensive extraction and refining.

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Year 10

Paper 1: Development Dynamics

Bottom-up project	A small scheme organised by an NGO or charity, that aims to help the more deprived in society.
Colonialism	The act of getting control over another country, this involves occupying their land

	and results in exploitation of people and the country's resources.
Economic inequality	The difference in wealth between the richest 10% or a country's population and the poorest 10%
Frank's dependency model	Describes how core economically strong countries buy raw materials for low prices to process them and sell them back at high prices leaving poorer periphery countries in a state of permanent dependency.
GDP (per capita)	Gross Domestic Product - The value of all produce and spending within a country (divided by the population)
HDI (Human Development Index)	A measure of several indicators including life expectancy, inequality and education.
Informal employment	Self-employed or temporary work, which provides a small wage and limited health regulations.
Life expectancy	The average number of years an individual is likely to live, determined at birth.
NGO (Non-governmental organisation)	A company or organisation which operates separate from the government but doesn't aim to make a profit e.g. Charities, universities

Top-down project	A large-scale scheme to improve development, organised by the government or a TNC.
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Paper 1: Challenges of Urbanising World

Central business district (CBD)	The centre of a city where many offices and shops are located.
Counter-urbanisation	Migration away from the city because of urban problems or remote working opportunities.
Megacity	A city with a population greater than 10 million.
Regeneration	A city tries to change its appearance of reputation through new building projects.
Remittance	Money which a family member living in a different country sends back to family in their home country.

Rural-Urban migration	Individuals move from rural to urban areas for work opportunities and a better quality of life.
Squatter settlement	Clusters of temporary housing which migrants or low-income families live in. Often built illegally with waste or scrap materials on the edge of cities.
Suburbanisation	Migration to live on the edge (suburbs) of a town or city.
Urban sprawl	The process of a city growing uncontrollably and spreading out taking over surrounding greenfield land.
World city (global city)	A city with global influence through politics, business or travel.

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Paper 2: Evolving landscapes: Rivers

Alluvium	Deposits of clay, silt, and sand left by floodwater typically producing fertile soil.
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Embankments	The banks of a river are built up with brick or concrete to increase the river capacity.
Estuary	The point where a river meets the ocean characterised by brackish water and may be tidal.
Delta	The landform made from deposited sediment found at the mouth of some rivers. These form on sheltered or shallow coastlines.
Floodplain zoning	Controlling where houses, buildings and leisure spaces are built relative to the river to reduce the risk of flooding and damage.
Gorge	A steep sided valley found downstream of a waterfall, created by retreat of the waterfall into the rock behind.
Helicoidal flow	A corkscrew like movement which causes a river to start moving side to side leading to the formation of meanders.
Pools and riffles	The deeper (pools) and shallower (riffles) parts of the river bed which cause the water to twist as it flows (see above)
Slip-off slope	A gentle slope which forms as a result of deposition on the outer bend of a meander.
Thalweg	The line or path of fastest velocity in a river channel. This is found near the centre of the flow where friction is less.

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Paper 2 Fieldwork: Rivers and Rural

Accuracy	Measuring as close to the true value as possible.
Bi-polar survey	A survey which uses a scale to determine how good or poor the quality is of a given characteristic.
Calliper	A device which pinches an object in order to measure the dimensions of width, depth and height.
Clinometer	An instrument with a weighted wheel which when aimed at a point and released, will determine the angle from where you stand.
Discharge	The amount of water in a river channel at a given time. Measured in cubic metres per second (m ³ /s or cumecs)
Hydroprop	A metal pole with a propeller at one end which is used to measure velocity in a river.

Qualitative	Non-numerical data which is descriptive such as words or photos.
Quantitative	Numerical data which measures or counts something.
Ranging pole	A pole coloured in red and white segments used to help measure gradient. Often used in coastal or river fieldwork.
Velocity	The speed at which a river is flowing.

Paper 3: Forests under threat

Buttress roots	Large thick tree roots that grow above the ground in tropical rainforests to improve stability and access to nutrients in the shallow soils.
Canopy	The layer of tropical rainforest where the tops of trees touch, forming a dense layer of vegetation.
Carbon sink	Something that absorbs more carbon dioxide than it emits causing a net loss of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
CITES	An international agreement that works to protect threatened wildlife from exploitation.
Ecotourism	Tourism that aims to have reduced environmental impact and supports

	conservation efforts to make it more sustainable.
HEP (Hydro-electric power)	Electricity generated by passing water through turbines often placed into dam walls.
Leaching	A process in soils where minerals are washed out/away by rainfall or other source of water.
REDD	A group of schemes run by the UN to aim to reduce the environmental impact of poorly managed forests.
Selective logging	A form of logging where only certain trees are cut down to reduce the environmental effects of logging.
Subsistence farming	Agriculture that is intended to produce only enough food for the farmer and their family to eat.

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Year 11

Paper 1: Hazardous Earth

Coriolis Effect	A spinning effect caused by the rotation of the earth
Epicentre	The point on the earth's surface directly above the focus of an earthquake.
GACM	Global Atmospheric Circulation Model – The means by which the planet redistributes intense heat from the equator.
Hazard	A process or event that may cause loss of life, injury and or damage
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – An organisation which predicts potential outcomes of future changes in climate
Trade Winds	The winds between the tropics which form the base of the Hadley cell and contribute to the formation of tropical storms
Tropical Storm	A large, low pressure weather system formed over warm waters in the tropics. Also known as Hurricanes, Cyclones and Typhoons.

Saffir-Simpson Scale	The scale which is used to measure tropical storms 1 is the weakest, 5 is the strongest.
Seismometer	An instrument which measures the energy released by an earthquake.
Vulnerability	Factors which make a country or group of people more at risk of damage or injury.

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