

Glossary

Use the following colour codes to find out what section of your textbook a word comes from:

Physical Geography: The Earth and Plate Movement · Volcanic Activity · Earthquakes · Fold Mountains · Rocks · Weathering and Erosion · Mass Movement · Rivers · The Sea · Glaciation · Soils

Mapwork: Mapwork · Aerial Photographs

Human Geography: Population · Settlement

Economic Geography: Primary Economic Activities · Secondary Economic Activities · Tertiary Economic Activities · Urbanisation · Economic Inequality

Climatology: Atmosphere and Weather · Climates

Cross-Reference System

Definitions for the words in **bold** can be found elsewhere: in the glossary.

How to Use This Section

- This section can be used to help explain words in the text that you do not understand
- This section can also be used to **help you study for Section One of the exam paper**, as the questions there often ask for a definition of the main terms. A main term has the symbol ♦ beside it.

A

A Horizon: The top section of a **soil profile**, rich in **nutrients** and often called **topsoil**. It is dark brown in colour due to high **humus** content.

♦ **Abrasion (1):** Process of glacial **erosion**. Rocks that have been **plucked** by the **glacier** become embedded in its base and scour the ground underneath.

♦ **Abrasion (2):** Process of river/sea **erosion**. The load of the river or sea hits off the bed and banks, wearing them away.

Absolute monarchy: The king rules the country without elections or a parliament.

♦ **Acid rain:** Rain that has been polluted with gases released from the burning of **fossil fuels** in our factories, cars, houses, etc. Sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide mix with rainwater to make a weak sulphuric and nitric acid. It can harm crops, animals and buildings.

♦ **Active:** The first stage in the lifecycle of a **volcano**. It is still erupting regularly.

Administrative activities: Activities in an area that are linked with the government, e.g. the county council.

Aerial photograph: Photographs taken of the ground from an aircraft.

Affluent: Wealthy.

♦ **Aftershocks:** The smaller **tremors** that can occur for days after an **earthquake**.

Agents of erosion: Moving water, air or ice that carries out **erosion**.

Agriculture: Farming.

Aid: All types of help (food, clothing, money, support) given from one country or person to another.

♦ **Air mass:** A body of air that is uniform in temperature, **atmospheric pressure** and **humidity**.

- Algal growth (algae):** Due to a build-up of **nutrients** in rivers from pollution, a small plant called algae can grow, using up the rivers' oxygen supply and in turn killing fish.
- ◆ **Alluvium:** Very **fertile** soil that was laid down by a river. It is very good for farming.
- Alpine folding:** The youngest mountain-building process. It formed the Alps, the Andes and the Rocky Mountains and took place 35 million years ago.
- ◆ **Altitude:** Height above sea level.
- Alto cumulus:** Medium-height clouds that bring about fine **weather**.
- Amenity:** Leisure activity.
- ◆ **Anemometer:** A **weather** instrument used to measure **wind** speed in knots or km/hr. It contains three cups that rotate.
- Anticline:** The upfold of a **fold mountain**.
- ◆ **Anticyclones:** An area of high pressure. Cold air is **descending** on the **earth**, causing pressure. Pressure is highest at the centre. It brings warm, calm conditions and frost in winter due to absence of cloud cover.
- Antiquities:** Historical settlement marked on an OS map.
- Appropriate technology:** Introducing methods that best suit the people who use them, for example local equipment, skills and materials.
- Arable land:** Land used for the growing of crops.
- Arch:** A feature of sea **erosion**. Waves eat away at a weakness in the rock, the hole becomes bigger, and eventually it forms a sea cave. If the cave cuts all the way through a headland, it is called an arch.
- Area:** The surface covered by an object (length x width = km²).
- ◆ **Arête:** A feature of glacial **erosion**. A ridge of highland created by two **cirques** cutting back to back.
- Arid:** Dry regions receiving very little rainfall.
- Armorican folding:** A mountain-building process that took place 250 million years ago. It formed the mountains of Munster.
- Arctic circle:** Located in the Northern Hemisphere at 66.5° N and has a **tundra climate**.
- Arms:** Weapons and military equipment.
- Artificial lake:** A man-made lake usually used for water storage.
- Artificial levee:** A man-made **levee** to help prevent flooding of a river.
- Ascending air:** Air that is rising off the ground.
- ◆ **Ash:** Material that is ejected from a **volcano**.
- ◆ **Aspect:** The direction that a place faces. North-facing slopes are cold. South-facing slopes are warm.
- ◆ **Atmosphere:** A mixture of gases that surrounds the **earth**. It mainly consists of oxygen (21 per cent) and nitrogen (78 per cent).
- ◆ **Atmospheric pressure:** The force felt on the **earth** by the weight of air.
- ◆ **Attrition:** Process of river or sea **erosion**. Rocks become rounded due to hitting off each other, off the bed and banks (river) and off cliffs (sea).
- Autumn equinox:** It occurs on the 22nd September. It is autumn in the northern hemisphere and spring in the southern hemisphere. There are 12 hours each of daylight and darkness across the world.
- Avalanche:** A very fast type of **mass movement**. A huge amount of snow falls down a steep slope.
- ◆ **Average daily temperature:**
$$\frac{\text{Maximum temp.} + \text{Minimum temp.}}{2}$$

2

B

- B Horizon:** The second layer in a **soil profile**, also called the **subsoil**. It contains more stones and is lighter in colour.
- Backwash:** The outgoing wave.
- ◆ **Barometer:** An instrument used to measure **atmospheric pressure**.

- Barriers to migration:** Things that make migration difficult.
- ◆ **Basalt:** An **igneous rock** formed when **lava** cooled quickly on the **earth's** surface. It has tiny crystals and is black in colour, e.g. Giant's Causeway, Antrim.
- Beaufort Scale:** A scale from 0 to 12, used to describe **wind** speed by examining its effects on the landscape.
- Bedding planes:** The horizontal layers between rocks.
- ◆ **Bilateral aid:** **Aid** given from one country to another.
- Blowhole:** A feature of sea **erosion**. The roof of a sea cave collapses, and as an incoming wave hits the back wall of the cave, sea spray shoots up through the hole.
- Bord na Móna:** Set up in the 1940s to commercially exploit Ireland's bogs.
- Bogburst:** Rapid form of **mass movement**. Peat becomes saturated with water and moves downslope quickly.
- Boreal climate:** Found just below the **Arctic Circle**, it has short, cool summers and long, cold winters.
- Botanists:** People who study plants.
- Boulder clay plains:** A feature of glacial **deposition**. Flat land of boulders, stones and clay deposited by a **glacier**. It is good for farming.
- Bridging point:** A place where a bridge can be built across a river.
- ◆ **Brown earths/soils:** Dark brown soils found commonly in Ireland. They are rich in **humus** and very **fertile**.
- Bustees:** **Shanty towns** in India.
- By-products:** Secondary product of a process, e.g. when crude oil is refined, petrol is created.

C

- C Horizon:** The bottom layer in a **soil profile**, it is made up of the parent rock.
- Calcite:** The material that **stalactites** etc. are made from.
- Calcium carbonate:** White substance in limestone.
- ◆ **Campbell–Stokes sunshine recorder:** An instrument used to measure hours of sunshine during the day.
- ◆ **Canaries current:** A cold current that flows along the west coast of Africa.
- ◆ **Carbonation:** A type of **chemical weathering**. Carbon dioxide + water = weak carbonic acid. It dissolves **calcium carbonate** in limestone.
- Cardinal points:** North, South, East and West.
- Capital:** Money.
- Cash crops:** Crops grown to make money, not to feed the farmer.
- Cave (cavern):** A long tunnel cut below ground by an underground river.
- ◆ **CBD: Central Business District.**
- Celtic Tiger:** A period of economic boom in Ireland around the late 1990s.
- ◆ **Central business district:** Located in the centre of the town. It is also the main shopping area.
- ◆ **Chemical weathering:** Rocks decay or dissolve because of chemical change.
- Cholera:** Disease carried in dirty water.
- ◆ **Cirque/corrie/coom:** A feature of glacial **erosion**. An armchair-shaped hollow on the side of a mountain. It has three steep sides and is the birthplace of a **glacier**.
- Cirrus:** A high cloud that indicates good **weather**.
- ◆ **Climate:** The average **weather** across a large area over a long period of time.
- Clints:** A **karst** feature. Slabs of limestone.
- ◆ **Clustered settlement pattern: Nucleated** settlement.
- Colonialism:** A time when one country was occupied and ruled by another country.
- Commodities:** Saleable goods and products.
- Communications:** Roads, rail, canals, ferries, airport, seaport, Internet and phone.
- Commuting:** Travelling to work.
- Commuter town:** A place from which people travel to work, e.g. Tallaght.

Compacted: Compressed.

Compressed: Squashed together.

◆ **Concave bend:** Outside bend of a river.

◆ **Condensation:** Water vapour collecting to form clouds.

◆ **Confluence:** The point where a **tributary** joins a larger river.

◆ **Coniferous forests:** Trees that do not lose their leaves, e.g. pine.

Conservationists: People who want to protect the natural environment.

◆ **Conservative plate boundary:** When two **plates** push past each other, land is neither created nor destroyed. **Earthquakes** occur.

◆ **Constructive plate boundary:** When two **plates** pull apart, **magma** rises to the surface. It cools and hardens to become new **crust**. **Mid-ocean ridges** and volcanic islands occur.

Constructive wave: A wave that builds up a beach.

Continental climate: The **climate** of an inland area.

◆ **Continental drift:** The breaking up of **Pangaea** into **plates** and their movement across the **earth** into their present-day positions. The **continents** and seas move with them as passengers; the process takes millions of years.

◆ **Continents:** There are seven continents: North America, South America, Asia, Africa, Europe, Australia and Antarctica.

Contour lines: Lines on a map that join places of equal height above sea level.

Conurbations: Many towns and cities that have joined to make one large **urban** centre.

Convection currents: They cause hot **magma** to flow in a circular motion in the **mantle**.

◆ **Convective rainfall:** Rainfall caused when the land, and in turn the air above it, heats quickly; the warm air rises rapidly, causing heavy showers that can be followed by thunder.

◆ **Convex bend:** The inside bend of a river.

Cool temperate oceanic climate: (Ireland) Warm summers and mild winters, frequent rainfall.

◆ **Core:** The core is found in the centre of the **earth** and is solid due to high pressure. It consists of nickel and iron. It has two parts: the inner (solid) and the outer **core** (**molten**).

◆ **Coriolis effect:** **Winds** are deflected to the right in the Northern Hemisphere and to the left in the Southern Hemisphere.

◆ **Course:** The journey a river takes.

◆ **Crater:** The opening at the top of a **volcano** where the ash, steam and **lava** escape.

◆ **Crust:** The outermost layer of the **earth**, where we live. It is made of solid rock.

Cumulus: Medium-height fluffy cloud. White = good **weather**, dark = bad **weather**.

Curtain: A **karst** feature. It is formed when **calcite** hardens along a crack in the roof of a cave.

Cutaway bogs: Bogs that remain after the peat in them has been harvested.

◆ **Cyclone:** A **depression**.

◆ **Cyclonic rainfall:** **Frontal rainfall**.

D

DART: Dublin Area Rapid Transit, train service in Dublin.

DDDA: Dublin Docklands Development Authority

Debt: Money owed by a country to a foreign bank.

Debt boomerang: **First World** countries are doing little to reduce the debt of **Third World** countries, and some people in these countries are turning to the illegal drug trade to make money. The drugs are sold in the **First World**, causing huge problems.

Decentralisation: The movement of government offices out of Dublin to other parts of the country.

◆ **Deciduous trees:** Trees that lose their leaves, e.g. oak.

Deforestation: Cutting down trees.

- Delta:** A feature of river **deposition**. Islands of sediment dropped at the mouth of a river as it enters the sea.
- Democracy:** Where people have a say in the running of their country.
- ◆ **Demographic transition model:** **Population cycle**.
- ◆ **Denudation:** Collective name for **weathering** and **erosion**.
- ◆ **Depression:** Also called low or **cyclone**, it brings bad **weather**.
- Descending air:** Air that is falling to the **earth**.
- ◆ **Desertification:** Losing land to the desert.
- ◆ **Destructive plate boundary:** When two **plates** collide, one **plate** is forced down into the **mantle** and is destroyed. **Volcanoes**, **earthquakes** and **fold mountains** occur.
- Destructive wave:** A wave that erodes the beach.
- Developed economies:** Wealthy **industrialised** countries.
- ◆ **Development aid:** **Aid** given to countries to improve education, **agriculture** and healthcare.
- Dioxins:** Harmful chemicals released through pollution.
- Disaster tourists:** People that visit areas after a disaster has occurred, e.g. to see the aftermath of a **volcano**.
- ◆ **Dispersed settlement pattern:** Houses well spread out over an area, e.g. farmhouses.
- Distributaries:** The smaller channels a river breaks up into at a **delta**.
- Distribution centre:** Goods are delivered around the country from here.
- ◆ **Ditcher:** A machine used to drain bogs.
- Donor country:** Place from which people migrate.
- ◆ **Dormant:** The second stage in the lifecycle of a **volcano**. The **volcano** has not erupted in a long time but could erupt again, e.g. Mt St Helens, U.S.A., erupted in 1980 after 120 years.
- Dormitory zones:** Houses in the **suburbs** of a town or city, from which owners travel to work.
- Drainage:** Surface water in an area.
- Drumlin:** A feature of glacial **deposition**. A small oval hill made of boulder clay. They often occur in groups.

E

- Earth:** 6.3 billion people live there. It is in the shape of a sphere.
- Earthquake:** An **earthquake** is a series of **tremors** caused by a build-up of energy in the **earth's crust** as two **plates** suddenly jerk past each other.
- Earthquake-proof buildings:** These buildings are able to sway with the force of an **earthquake**.
- Eastings:** The numbers along the bottom of a map extract.
- Ecclesiastical:** Religious.
- Effluent:** Waste.
- ◆ **Embargoes:** Total bans on certain types of fish.
- ◆ **Emergency aid:** **Aid** given to countries in times of crisis.
- Emigration:** Movement out of a country.
- Entrepreneur:** A person who starts up his or her own business.
- ◆ **Epicentre:** The point on the **earth's** surface directly above the **focus** of an **earthquake**. The **tremors** are strongest here.
- ◆ **Equator:** An imaginary line around the middle of the **earth**. It is very hot, as the sun shines directly on it.
- Equatorial climate:** Hot, humid, one-season **climate** found near the **equator**.
- ◆ **Erosion:** The breakdown and removal of rocks by agents such as **wind**, water or ice.
- Erratic:** A feature of glacial **deposition**. Rocks picked up by a **glacier** and dropped in an area of a different rock type.
- Eskers:** A feature of glacial **deposition**. A long ridge of **stratified** sand and gravel **deposited** by a melting **glacier**.

◆**Estuary:** Part of the river mouth that is tidal.

EU: European Union.

European Union: A group of countries came together after World War II and hoped that by creating strong economies, more employment and a higher standard of living they could prevent another world war.

◆**Evaporation:** Water turning into vapour due to heat.

Export processing zones (EPZs): Areas along the east coast of China where multinational companies have located for cheap labour.

◆**Extinct:** The third stage in the lifecycle of a **volcano**. It has not erupted in human history.

Extractive industry: An industry removing materials from the ground.

F

Factory ships: Ships that can stay at sea for several months clearing vast areas of fish. They can process and freeze the fish on board.

Fauna: Animals.

Favelas: **Shanty towns** in Brazil.

Feminist movement: A movement to improve women's rights.

Fertile: Land that is very good for farming.

Fetch: The size of a sea.

Finished product: A product that is ready for sale on the market.

◆**Finite: Non-renewable resource.**

Fiord: A drowned **U-shaped valley**.

◆**First World:** The developed world, i.e. wealthy countries.

Fissure: A long crack in the **earth**, from which **magma** flows slowly onto the surface.

Floodplain: A feature of river **deposition**. The flat land on either side of a river.

Flora: Plants.

◆**Focus:** The place in the **earth's crust** where an **earthquake** begins.

Fold mountains: They are created at a **destructive plate boundary**. The land above the **plates** is crushed together and buckles upwards, forming mountains.

◆**Footloose industry:** An industry that is not tied to any one locational factor.

Ford: **Bridging point**.

Fossil: The preserved remains of living creatures in rocks.

◆**Fossil fuels:** Materials made from ancient plant and animal remains that are burned to release energy, e.g. coal, oil.

◆**Freeze-thaw action:** A type of **mechanical weathering**. Water enters a crack during the day, freezes and expands until eventually the rock breaks off.

◆**Front:** The boundary between two **air masses**.

◆**Frontal rainfall:** Rainfall that is created when two **air masses** meet. The warm air rises rapidly, causing heavy rain.

G

◆**Gabions:** Wire cages filled with stones placed at the base of sand dunes to prevent coastal **erosion**.

Gentry: Rich people.

Geology/geologists: People who study rocks and the **earth's crust**.

◆**Geothermal energy:** Energy that is created from water in contact with **molten** rocks underground.

◆**Glaciated valley:** A **U-shaped valley** cut out by a **glacier** from a pre-existing **V-shaped** river valley. It has a wide, flat base and steep valley sides.

Glaciation: When one-third of the world was covered in ice.

◆**Glaciers:** Moving rivers of ice.

◆**Global warming:** The rapid increase of world temperatures.

◆**Grader:** Machine used to level bogs.

◆**Gradient:** Slope or slant of a surface.

- ◆ **Granite**: An **igneous** rock that is formed deep in the **earth's crust** when **magma** cooled slowly, forming large crystals. It is pink, black or grey in colour, e.g. Wicklow Mountains.
- Grants**: Money provided by governments for specific purposes, e.g. to build a factory.
- ◆ **Greenhouse effect**: The **earth** is getting warmer due to an increase of heat-absorbing gases, e.g. carbon dioxide and methane, in the **atmosphere**.
- Greying**: A country's population is getting older due to a lower death rate.
- Grikes**: A **karst** feature. The gaps between the **clints**; they are constantly being eroded.
- Ground moraine**: A ridge of sand and gravel found at the base of a **glacier**.
- ◆ **Groynes**: Low walls or fences that extend out at right angles to the sea to trap sand and stop the effects of **longshore drift**. A type of coastal protection.

H

- ◆ **Hanging valley**: A **tributary glaciated valley**. They are found high on the valley sides, as they did not have as much power to erode as deep as the main **glacier**.
- ◆ **Hardpan**: An **impermeable crust** of **nutrients** and **minerals** found in soil after **leaching**.
- ◆ **Heavy industry**: The **raw materials** and **finished products** of these industries are bulky and heavy, e.g. the steel industry.
- ◆ **HEP**: **Hydroelectric power**.
- Hibernate**: Sleep for the winter.
- High latitudes**: Near the poles.
- Horizons**: The layers in a **soil profile**.
- Horticulture**: Gardening.
- Host country**: A place to which people migrate.
- Hot springs**: Warm water that reaches the surface. It is heated by **volcanic** activity.
- Humid**: Air that has a high percentage of water vapour.
- ◆ **Humification**: The process of making **humus**.
- ◆ **Humus**: Black or dark brown sticky substance rich in **nutrients**. Formed from the broken-down remains of plants and animals.
- ◆ **Hydraulic action**: The force of moving water. A process of river or sea **erosion**.
- ◆ **Hydroelectricity**: Electricity created by running water (**HEP**).
- ◆ **Hydrological cycle**: **Water cycle**.
- ◆ **Hygrometer**: Instrument used to measure the **humidity** of the air

I

- IDA**: **Industrial Development Agency**.
- IFSC**: International Financial Services Centre.
- ◆ **Igneous rocks**: Rocks that are formed by **volcanic** activity, when **magma** or **lava** cools and hardens.
- Immigration**: Migration of people into a country.
- Impermeable**: Does not allow water to pass through it.
- ◆ **Industrial Development Agency**: An organisation that actively promotes Ireland as a location for industry.
- ◆ **Industrial emergent regions**: Countries with little large-scale manufacturing.
- ◆ **Industrial estate**: A site prepared for industry with facilities set up, e.g. water, electricity. They are usually found on the outskirts of a town.
- ◆ **Industrial inertia**: When an industry does not relocate, even though it may be economically sound to do so.
- Industrialisation/industrialised**: Setting up industry/factories.
- ◆ **Industrialised regions**: The **First World**, where most of the world's industries are located.
- Infertile**: Unable to grow crops; poor quality.
- Infill development**: Repopulation of an area.
- Infrastructure**: Buildings and transport facilities.

◆ **Inputs: Raw materials.**

Intensive farming: Farming to make profits.

Interlocking spurs: A feature of river **erosion**. Land that juts out on either side of a river valley; the river is unable to cut through it and has to **meander** around it.

Irish Box: A fishing area of 320 km around Ireland that only Irish ships can use.

◆ **Irrigation:** Artificial watering of land.

◆ **Isobars:** Lines on a map that join places of equal **atmospheric pressure**.

◆ **Isohels:** Lines on a map that join places of equal sunshine.

◆ **Isohyets:** Lines on a map that join places of equal rainfall.

◆ **Isotachs:** Lines on a map that join places of equal **wind** speed.

◆ **Isotherms:** Lines on a map that join places of equal temperature.

J

Joint: A crack in a rock.

K

◆ **Karst landscape:** An area of exposed limestone.

L

◆ **Labrador current:** A cold current that flows between Greenland and Canada.

Lagoon: A feature of sea **deposition**. A sealed-off bay.

Landslide: Rapid form of **mass movement**. A large amount of soil moves downslope, destroying everything in its path.

Lateral moraine: A feature of glacial **deposition**. A ridge of sand and gravel found on the side of a **U-shaped valley**.

◆ **Latitude:** Lines on a map that join places of equal distance from the **equator**.

◆ **Lava: Magma** when it reaches the surface.

◆ **Leaching: Minerals** and **nutrients** are washed out of reach of plant roots by heavy rainfall.

Levee: A feature of river **deposition**. Raised banks of **alluvium** on either side of a river.

◆ **Light industry: Raw materials** and **finished products** of these industries are light and easy to transport, e.g. the computer industry.

Limestone pavement: A **karst** feature. An area of exposed limestone composed of **clints** and **grikes**.

◆ **Linear settlement pattern:** Houses built in a line, usually along a road.

◆ **Longshore drift:** A process of sea **deposition**. The zigzag movement of material along the shore.

Low latitudes: Near the **equator**.

Luas: Light rail system in Dublin; in Irish means 'speed'.

M

◆ **Magma: Molten** rock found in the earth's **mantle**.

◆ **Magma reservoir:** An area of **magma** underneath a **volcano**.

◆ **Magnitude:** Strength of an **earthquake**.

Malnourished: Not getting enough food.

◆ **Mantle:** The middle layer of the **earth**, made up of **molten** rock called **magma**.

Maritime climate: The **climate** of an area beside the sea.

Market gardening: Growing fruit and vegetables.

Marram grass: A salt-resistant plant that grows on sand dunes.

◆ **Mass movement:** The movement of material downslope under the influence of gravity.

◆ **Mean temperature:** $\frac{\text{Sum of monthly temp}}{\text{No. of months}}$ [For April, May, June: $\frac{6+8.5+12.5}{3} = 9^\circ\text{C}$]

Meander: Bend in a river.

- ◆ **Mechanical weathering:** Causes rocks to be broken up into smaller pieces.
- Medial moraine:** A feature of glacial **deposition**. A ridge of sand and gravel found along the middle of a **U-shaped valley**.
- Mediterranean climate:** Warm Temperate Oceanic **climate**.
- Megalithic tombs:** Large stone tombs made by pre-Christian settlers.
- ◆ **Metamorphic rocks:** Rocks that are formed when **igneous** or **sedimentary** rocks come under great heat or pressure.
- Meteorology:** The study of **weather**.
- Micro-organisms:** Bacteria and fungi that cannot be seen with the naked eye.
- ◆ **Mid-ocean ridge:** When two **plates** separate underneath the ocean. The **magma solidifies** to form a new chain of mountains, e.g. the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.
- ◆ **Miller:** A machine used to harvest peat.
- Minerals:** Organic material needed for plant growth.
- Mixed farming:** Growing crops and keeping livestock.
- Molten:** Melted.
- Moraines:** Ridges of unsorted sand and gravel transported and then **deposited** by a **glacier**.
- Mouth:** Where the river joins the sea.
- Mudflow:** A fast type of **mass movement**. When soil or **ash** mixes with water to form mud and moves quickly downslope.
- Multifunctional settlement:** Large settlements that have a combination of functions.
- ◆ **Multilateral aid:** **Aid** given through international agencies, e.g. United Nations, Red Cross.
- Multinational companies/corporations (MNCs):** Large companies that are located in a wide variety of countries.

N

- ◆ **Natural decrease:** Population decrease of a country caused only by the death rate being higher than the birth rate.
- ◆ **Natural increase:** Population increase of a country caused only by the birth rate being higher than the death rate.
- Natural regions:** A part of the world that has its own unique characteristics: **climate**, vegetation, wildlife and human activities.
- ◆ **Natural resource:** Unprocessed **raw materials** found in the **earth**.
- Nodal point:** Meeting place of roads.
- ◆ **Newly industrialised regions:** Regions that are rapidly becoming **industrialised**; companies locate there for cheap labour.
- Niche market:** Specific market.
- Nomadic lifestyle:** People who move from area to area and have no fixed home place.
- ◆ **Non-finite resource:** **Renewable resource**.
- ◆ **Non-governmental organisations (NGOs):** Voluntary groups that collect money to give to people in need, e.g. Concern.
- ◆ **Non-renewable resource:** A resource that, once used, cannot be used again, e.g. oil.
- ◆ **North Atlantic Drift:** A warm current that flows along the west coast of Ireland.
- Northings:** The numbers along the side of a map extract.
- ◆ **Nucleated settlement pattern:** Houses in a group, e.g. housing estate.
- Nutrients:** Substances that help plants to grow.

O

- Oblique photograph:** Photograph taken at an angle; houses at the front are bigger than houses at the back of the photo.
- ◆ **Ocean currents:** Giant rivers of warm or cold water that flow through the seas.
- ◆ **OPEC:** Oil Producing and Exporting Countries.
- Opencast mining:** **Quarrying**.

- Orienteering:** A sport where people hike over a course using a compass and a map.
- Out-migration:** People leaving an area.
- ◆ **Outputs:** Finished products, e.g. wooden doors.
- Outwash plain:** An area of sand and gravel washed out in front of a melting **glacier**. The land is not good for farming.
- Ox-bow lake:** A feature of river **deposition**. A cut-off **meander**.

P

- ◆ **Pacific Ring of fire:** An area around the Pacific Ocean where the world's major **earthquakes** and **volcanoes** occur.
- ◆ **Pangaea:** It was a huge landmass that divided millions of years ago into the **continents**.
- ◆ **Passive plate boundary: Conservative plate boundary.**
- Pastoral farming:** Farming animals.
- Paternoster lakes: Ribbon lakes** that are connected by a river.
- Peripheral area:** On the outskirts, away from the centre of government.
- Permafrost:** Permanently frozen ground.
- Permeable:** Rainwater can pass through it, e.g. limestone.
- Pillar:** A **karst** feature. Formed when a **stalactite** and a **stalagmite** meet.
- Plankton:** Microscopic plant life that fish feed on.
- Plant litter:** Dead leaves, flowers and branches.
- Plate boundaries:** The margins or edges of **plates**, where **earthquakes**, **volcanoes** and **fold mountains** occur.
- ◆ **Plates:** Pieces of the **earth's crust** divided by deep cracks. They float on top of the **mantle**.
- ◆ **Plucking:** A process of glacial **erosion**. The base of the **glacier** melts due to friction against rocks in its path. The meltwater freezes to the rock and as the **glacier** moves forward, it plucks out the rock.
- ◆ **Podzols:** Grey soils found in upland areas under **coniferous** forests; lacking in **humus** and very **infertile**.
- ◆ **Polders:** Land reclaimed from the sea.
- ◆ **Population cycle:** The cycle most countries go through, from high birth rates and death rates and a large population increase to eventually a population decline, with the death rate higher than the birth rate.
- ◆ **Population distribution:** The spread of people across an area.
- ◆ **Population explosion:** A huge increase in the world's population in a few years.
- ◆ **Population pyramids:** A diagram that economists use to examine the age and sex structure of a country.
- Potholers:** People who study caves.
- ◆ **Precipitation:** Any type of water that falls from the sky: rain, sleet, snow or hail.
- ◆ **Prevailing wind:** The most common **wind** in an area, e.g. Ireland's is southwesterly.
- ◆ **Primary economic activities:** Activities where people are taking resources from the earth, e.g. mining.
- ◆ **Primate city:** A city that is more than twice as big as the next largest city, e.g. Dublin.
- ◆ **Processes:** Jobs or activities, e.g. ploughing.
- Protectionism: Tariff barriers** put on **finished goods** imported from the South to prevent them from competing with **First World** companies.
- ◆ **Pull factors:** Reasons that draw people to an area, e.g. employment.
- ◆ **Push factors:** Reasons why people migrate from an area, e.g. famine.
- Pyramidal peak:** The piece of land left when three or more **cirques** cut back to back.

Q

- Quarrying: Opencast mining.** Removing rocks from the **earth's** surface.
- Quickly developing economies:** Countries that are experiencing rapid **industrialisation**.

♦ **Quotas:** An amount of fish that you are legally allowed to catch each year; if you go over the quota, you can be fined.

R

Radial roots: Roots that spread out over a large area to collect water.

♦ **Rain gauge:** An instrument used to measure the amount of rainfall.

Randstad: **Conurbation** in the Netherlands.

♦ **Raw materials:** Materials taken from the ground, e.g. wood.

Recreational: Leisure activities.

♦ **Regolith:** Loose, weathered material.

Relative humidity: The amount of water vapour in the air.

Relief: The lie of the land.

♦ **Relief rainfall:** Rainfall created by warm air from the sea rising over coastal mountains; as it rises, it cools and condenses to form rain.

♦ **Renewable energy:** Energy that can be used over and over again, e.g. water.

♦ **Renewable resource:** Something that can be used over and over again, e.g. wind.

Residential: Houses.

Revenue: Income of the state from taxes.

Ribbon lakes: A feature of glacial **erosion**. They are water-filled hollows on the valley floor that have been plucked out by a **glacier**.

♦ **Ribbon settlement pattern:** **Linear**.

♦ **Richter Scale:** The scale used to measure the force of an **earthquake**; each unit of the scale is ten times stronger than the last.

River basin: The area drained by a river and its **tributaries**.

♦ **Rock armour:** Boulders placed at the back of the beach to prevent coastal **erosion**.

♦ **Run-off:** When water that falls to the ground makes its way back to the sea through the ground or rivers.

Rural: Countryside.

S

Sand bar: A feature of sea **deposition**. A ridge of sand that extends across the mouth of a bay.

Sand spit: A feature of sea **deposition**. A ridge of sand that is connected to the mainland at one end and extends into a bay at the other.

Satellite towns: Towns on the outskirts of a city that are now part of it.

Savanna climate: Two-season **climate** with wet summers and dry winters.

Scale: The ratio between a distance on a map and the corresponding distance on the ground.

Sea walls: Curved walls at the back of a beach. They deflect waves and prevent coastal **erosion**.

♦ **Secondary economic activities:** Jobs in which people process **raw materials** or in which processed materials are made into **finished products**.

♦ **Sedimentary rocks:** Rocks formed by the remains of plants, animals or rock sediments **compressed** and **cemented** together.

♦ **Seismograph:** A machine used to measure the force of an **earthquake**.

Services: Things needed by the public.

♦ **Shanty towns:** Temporary homes of poor people made of cardboard, plastic, etc. Whole families live in them.

Sleán: Tool used to cut bogs by hand.

♦ **Slope:** **Gradient**.

Slowly developing economies: Very poor countries with little industry.

Social isolation: Young people are unhappy in new **suburbs**, as they have left behind the extended family and support system.

Soil creep: Slowest form of **mass movement**; it occurs on gentle slopes and is only noticeable by its effects on walls, trees, etc.

- Soil profile:** A cross-section of a piece of soil.
- Solar energy:** Energy from the sun.
- Solidify:** Cool to form rock.
- Soluble:** Can be dissolved by water.
- ◆ **Solution:** A process of river **erosion**. Water dissolves some rocks, e.g. limestone.
- ◆ **Source:** Where the river begins.
- Specialised:** Dealing with one product or service only.
- Spot heights:** A small black dot on a map that shows the exact height of the ground.
- Squatters:** People without legal rights to their homes.
- ◆ **Stalactite:** A **karst** feature. Forms when water evaporates and **calcite** hardens on the cave ceiling in the shape of a long cone.
- ◆ **Stalagmite:** A **karst** feature. Forms below a **stalactite** when the **calcite** drips onto the cave floor.
- Stratified:** Laid down in layers.
- Stratus:** Low clouds that bring rain.
- Striations:** Scratches in the rock caused by stones embedded in the **glacier**.
- Subdivision:** Dividing land between all your children.
- Subsoil:** The **B-horizon**.
- Subsidies:** Financial help given to farmers for their products.
- Suburbs:** Outskirts of a town, often a **residential** area.
- Subzone letter:** The large blue letter on a map.
- Super-trawlers:** Large ships used for fishing; they are banned in some waters.
- Sustainable exploitation:** People using resources for their own needs but without putting the needs of future generations at risk.
- Swallow hole:** A **karst** feature. An enlarged **grike**. Rivers flow underground through it.
- Swash:** An incoming wave.
- Sweatshops:** Industries in the **Third World** with few workers' rights.
- Syncline:** The downfold of a **fold mountain**.
- System:** Has **inputs**, **processes** and **outputs**, e.g. farming.

T

- Taiga:** **Coniferous** forests of the **boreal climate**, e.g. pine.
- Tariff barriers:** High taxes put on imported goods to make them expensive and help protect local products.
- Tarn:** A lake in a **cirque/corrie/coom**.
- Telecommunications:** Companies that conduct all their business through telephones and the Internet.
- ◆ **Temperature range:** maximum temperature – minimum temperature [17.5 – (–4.5) = 22°C].
- Tenements:** Cramped housing conditions, with several flats in the one house.
- Terminal moraine:** A feature of glacial **deposition**. A ridge of sand and gravel that lies in front of a **glacier** and marks its furthest advance.
- Terrain:** Landscape.
- ◆ **Tertiary economic activities:** Jobs involving the provision of **services** and facilities.
- TGV:** *Train à Grande Vitesse*, French high-speed train.
- ◆ **Third World:** The developing world; poor countries.
- Tidal wave:** **Tsunami**.
- ◆ **Tied aid:** **Aid** given to countries with conditions attached.
- Tiger economies:** Countries that have had rapid **industrialisation**.
- Tillage:** Crop farming.
- Tombolo:** A feature of sea **deposition**. An island connected to the mainland by a **sandbar**.
- Topsoil:** The **A-horizon**.
- ◆ **Tremors:** The waves of energy felt during an **earthquake**. They are strongest near the **epicentre**.

Triangulation station: A small black triangle found on a map that shows the height of a hill or mountain.

◆ **Tributary:** A small river that joins a larger river.

◆ **Troposphere:** The lowest layer of the **atmosphere**, where **weather** is created.

Truncated spurs: Cut-off **interlocking spurs** that have been eroded by a **glacier**.

Tsunami: A huge wave caused by an **earthquake** under the ocean. It is also called a **tidal wave**, e.g. Indonesia in 2004.

Tundra climate: A very cold **climate** with cold summers and long winters and temperatures below freezing point; found in the **Arctic circle**.

Turnover: Number of customers.

Typhoid: Disease carried in dirty water.

U

Urban: Towns.

◆ **Urban decay:** **Urban decline**.

◆ **Urban decline:** When areas in a city become rundown.

◆ **Urban fringe:** The outskirts of a town or city.

◆ **Urban redevelopment:** Old rundown buildings are demolished and the area is then used for shops, offices, etc.

◆ **Urban renewal:** The demolition of old buildings and their replacement with modern residential accommodation.

◆ **Urban sprawl:** The uncontrolled growth of a city into the surrounding countryside.

U-shaped valley: A feature of glacial **erosion**. It has a flat valley floor and steep valley sides.

V

◆ **Vent:** Part of a **volcano**. The hole in the **earth's crust** that the **magma** is forced through.

Vertical photograph: Taken directly overhead; only the roofs of buildings are visible.

Volcano: When **magma** reaches the surface through a hole and creates a cone-shaped mountain. **Volcanoes** are often violent because the **magma** is forced through such a small space.

◆ **Voluntary aid:** **Aid** collected by **NGOs**.

V-shaped valley: A river valley.

W

Warm Temperate Oceanic climate: Hot summers and mild winters, some rainfall.

◆ **Water cycle:** Water is **renewable** and flows in a cycle from the sea and back again. It goes through the processes of **evaporation**, **condensation**, **precipitation** and **run-off**.

Waterfall: A feature of river **erosion**. A vertical drop in the river's **course**.

◆ **Watershed:** Highland that separates two **river basins**.

◆ **Weather:** The state of the **atmosphere** at any moment in time.

◆ **Weathering:** Wearing away of the landscape by the elements.

Wind: Air moving from areas of high to low pressure.

Wind chill factor: Upland areas are more exposed to **winds**, making temperatures cooler there.

◆ **Wind vane:** An instrument used to measure **wind** direction, north, south, east or west.

Z

Zuyder Zee: An area of **polders** in the Netherlands.