

The challenge of natural hazards

Natural hazards

THE EXAM!

- This section is tested in Paper 1 Section A.
- You must know natural hazards, tectonic hazards, weather hazards and climate change.
- You must know a named example of an earthquake or volcano, a tropical storm and an extreme weather event in the UK.

Natural hazards are naturally occurring physical phenomena, which pose a potential risk to human life and/or damage to property.

Hazard risk

Hazard risk is the chance or probability of being affected by a natural event. There are different factors that can affect risk:

- **Urbanisation**: densely populated areas are at greater risk from natural hazards.
- **Poverty**: in developing countries, people are forced to live in areas at greater risk, for example, on unstable slopes prone to floods and landslides.
- **Deforestation**: the removal of trees increases the likelihood of flooding and landslides.
- **Climate change**: as temperatures get warmer, there will be more tropical storms. Areas where it is wetter may become flooded and other areas could be drier with an increased risk of **drought**.



Categorise the following natural hazards into atmospheric, geological and hydrological hazards:

- volcanic eruptions
- earthquakes
- tropical storms
- tsunamis
- landslides
- floods.

CHECK IT!

- 1 Give a correct definition of the term 'natural hazard'.
- 2 Name the three categories of natural hazards.
- 3 a Why are some people more at risk from natural hazards than others?
b Will people be more or less at risk of natural hazards in the future?