Unit 1c

Physical Landscapes in the UK

AQA

Relief of the UK

Relief of the UK can be divided into uplands and lowlands. Each have their own characteristics.

Key

Lowlands

Uplands

Areas +600m: Peaks and ridges cold, misty and snow common. i.e. Scotland

Areas - 200m: Flat or rolling hills. Warmer weather. i.e. Fens

Types of Erosion

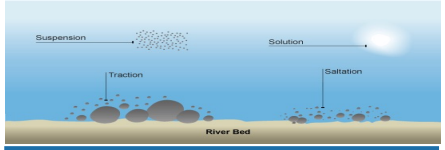
The break down and transport of rocks – smooth, round and sorted.

Attrition	Rocks that bash together to become smooth/smaller.
Solution	A chemical reaction that dissolves rocks.
Abrasion	Rocks hurled at the base of a cliff to break pieces apart or scraped against the banks and bed of a river.
Hydraulic Action	Water enters cracks in the cliff, or river bank, air compresses, causing the crack to expand.

Types of Transportation

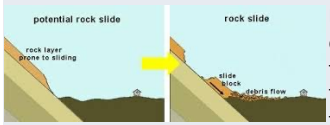
A natural process by which eroded material is carried/transported.

Solution	Minerals dissolve in water and are carried along.
Suspension	Sediment is carried along in the flow of the water.
Saltation	Pebbles that bounce along the sea/river bed.
Traction	Boulders that roll along a river/sea bed by the force of the flowing water.

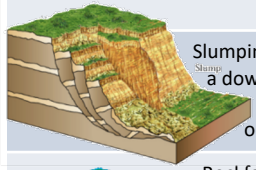


Mass Movement

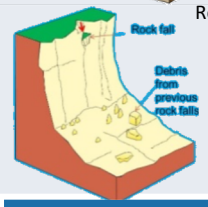
A large movement of soil and rock debris that moves down slopes in response to the pull of gravity in a vertical direction.



Rock slides occur when there is a failure along the bedding plane.



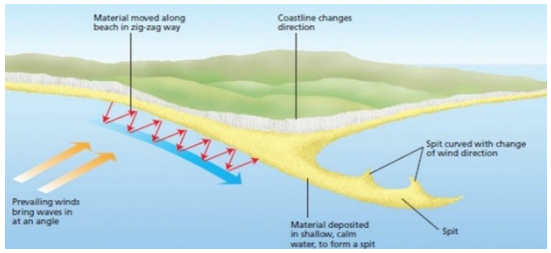
Slumping occurs when there is a downward rotation of sections of cliff. Often occur after heavy rain.



Rockfall is the rapid free fall of rock from a steep cliff face because of gravity.

Formation of Coastal Spits - Deposition

Example: Spurn Head, Holderness Coast.



1) Swash moves up the beach at the angle of the prevailing wind.
2) Backwash moves down the beach at 90° to coastline, due to gravity.
3) Zigzag movement (Longshore Drift) transports material along beach.
4) Deposition causes beach to extend, until reaching a river estuary.
5) Change in prevailing wind direction forms a hook.
6) Sheltered area behind spit encourages deposition, salt marsh forms.

Types of Weathering

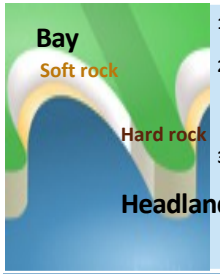
Weathering is the breakdown of rocks where they are.

Biological	Breakdown of rock by plants and animals e.g. roots pushing rocks apart.
Mechanical	Breakdown of rock without changing its chemical composition e.g. freeze thaw

What is Deposition?

When the sea or river loses energy, it drops the sand, rock particles and pebbles it has been carrying. This is called deposition. Heaviest material is deposited first.

Formation of Bays and Headlands



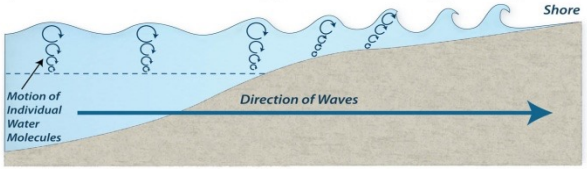
1) Waves attack the coastline.
2) Softer rock is eroded by the sea quicker forming a bay, calm area cases deposition.
3) More resistant rock is left jutting out into the sea. This is a headland and is now more vulnerable to erosion.

How do waves form?

Waves are created by wind blowing over the surface of the sea. As the wind blows over the sea, friction is created - producing a swell in the water.

Why do waves break?

1	**Waves start out at sea.**
2	**As waves approaches the shore, friction slows the base.**
3	**This causes the orbit to become elliptical.**
4	**Until the top of the wave breaks over.**



Mechanical Weathering Example: Freeze-thaw weathering

Stage One

Water seeps into cracks and fractures in the rock.

Stage Two

When the water freezes, it expands about 9%. This wedges apart the rock.

Stage Three

With repeated freeze-thaw cycles, the rock breaks off.

Size of waves

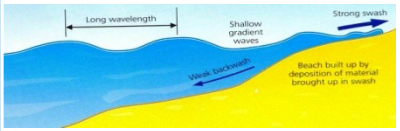
Affected by:

- **Fetch how far the wave has travelled**
- **Strength of the wind.**
- **How long the wind has been blowing for.**

Types of Waves

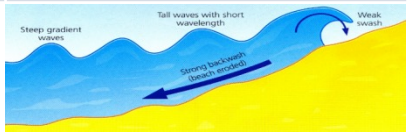
Constructive Waves

This wave has a **swash that is stronger** than the backwash. This therefore builds up the coast.

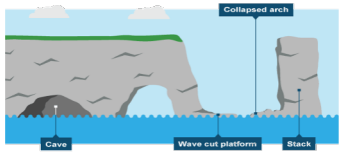


Destructive Waves

This wave has a **backwash that is stronger** than the swash. This therefore erodes the coast.



Formation of Coastal Stack



Example: Old Harry Rocks, Dorset

1) Hydraulic action widens cracks in the cliff face over time.
2) Abrasion forms a wave cut notch between high tide and low tide.
3) Further abrasion widens the wave cut notch to from a cave.
4) Caves from both sides of the headland break through to form an arch.
5) Weather above/erosion below –arch collapses leaving stack.
6) Further weathering and erosion eaves a stump.

Coastal Defences

Hard Engineering Defences

Groynes	**Wood barriers prevent longshore drift, so the beach can build up.**	✓ **Beach still accessible.** ✗ **No deposition further down coast = erodes faster.**
Sea Walls	**Concrete walls break up the energy of the wave . Has a lip to stop waves going over.**	✓ **Long life span** ✓ **Protects from flooding** ✗ **Curved shape encourages erosion of beach deposits.**
Gabions or Rip Rap	**Cages of rocks/boulders absorb the waves energy, protecting the cliff behind.**	✓ **Cheap** ✓ **Local material can be used to look less strange.** ✗ **Will need replacing.**

Soft Engineering Defences

Beach Nourishment	**Beaches built up with sand, so waves have to travel further before eroding cliffs.**	✓ **Cheap** ✓ **Beach for tourists.** ✗ **Storms = need replacing.** ✗ **Offshore dredging damages seabed.**
Managed Retreat	**Low value areas of the coast are left to flood & erode.**	✓ **Reduce flood risk** ✓ **Creates wildlife habitats.** ✗ **Compensation for land.**

Case Study: Holdernes

Location and Background
Located on the North- East coast. The Holderness coast is in the north east of England. This is one of the most vulnerable coastlines in the world and it retreats at a rate of one to two metres every year.

Geomorphic Processes
- the cliffs which are made of a soft boulder clay, and will therefore erode quickly, especially when saturated.
-The village of Mappleton, perched on a cliff top on the Holderness coast, has approximately 50 properties. Due to the erosion of the cliffs, the village is under threat.

Management
In 1991, the decision was taken to protect Mappleton. A coastal management scheme costing £2 million was introduced involving two types of hard engineering - placing rock armour along the base of the cliff and building two rock groynes.

Middle Course of a River

Here the gradient get gentler, so the water has less energy and moves more slowly. The river will begin to erode laterally making the river wider.

Water Cycle Key Terms

Precipitation	Moisture falling from clouds as rain, snow or hail.
Interception	Vegetation prevents water reaching the ground.
Surface Runoff	Water flowing over the surface of the land into rivers
Infiltration	Water absorbed into the soil from the ground.
Transpiration	Water lost through leaves of plants.

Physical and Human Causes of Flooding.

***Physical:* Prolong & heavy rainfall**
Long periods of rain causes soil to become saturated leading runoff.

***Physical:* Geology**
Impermeable rocks causes surface runoff to increase river discharge.

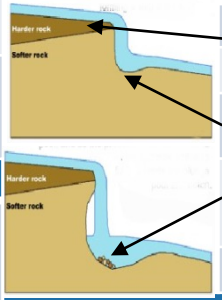
***Physical:* Relief**
Steep-sided valleys channels water to flow quickly into rivers causing greater discharge.

***Human:* Land Use**
Tarmac and concrete are impermeable. This prevents infiltration & causes surface runoff.

Upper Course of a River

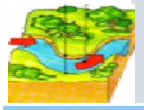
Near the source, the river flows over steep gradient from the hill/mountains. This gives the river a lot of energy, so it will erode the riverbed vertically to form narrow valleys.

Formation of a Waterfall



1) River flows over alternative types of rocks.
2) River erodes soft rock faster creating a step.
3) Further hydraulic action and abrasion form a plunge pool beneath.
4) Hard rock above is undercut leaving cap rock which collapses providing more material for erosion.
5) Waterfall retreats leaving steep sided gorge.

Formation of Ox-bow Lakes

Step 1

Erosion of outer bank forms river cliff. Deposition inner bank forms slip off slope.

Step 2

Further hydraulic action and abrasion of outer banks, neck gets smaller.

Step 3

Erosion breaks through neck, so river takes the fastest route, redirecting flow

Step 4

Evaporation and deposition cuts off main channel leaving an oxbow lake.

Case Study – Banbury flood

Banbury is a town 50km North of Oxford. It is on the floodplain of the River Cherwell, which is a tributary of the River Thames

Causes of flood - Effects of floo

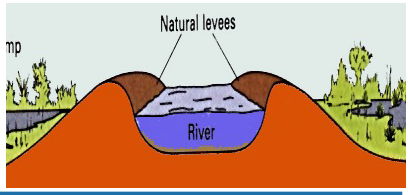
Lower Course of a River

Near the river's mouth, the river widens further and becomes flatter. Material transported is deposited.

Formation of Floodplains and levees

When a river floods, fine silt/alluvium is deposited on the valley floor. Closer to the river's banks, the heavier materials build up to form natural levees.

✓ Nutrient rich soil makes it ideal for farming.
✓ Flat land for building houses.



River Management Schemes

Soft Engineering

Afforestation – plant trees to soak up rainwater, reduces flood risk.
Demountable Flood Barriers put in place when warning raised.
Managed Flooding – naturally let areas flood, protect settlements.

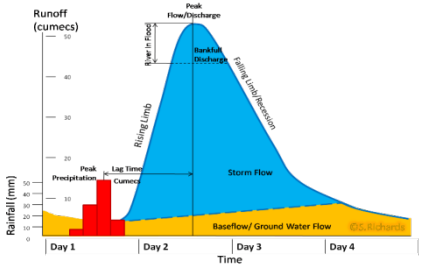
Hard Engineering

Straightening Channel – increases velocity to remove flood water.
Artificial Levees – heightens river so flood water is contained.
Deepening or widening river to increase capacity for a flood.

Hydrographs and River Discharge

River discharge is the volume of water that flows in a river. Hydrographs who discharge at a certain point in a river changes over time in relation to rainfall

1. **Peak discharge** is the discharge in a period of time.
2. **Lag time** is the delay between peak rainfall and peak discharge.
3. **Rising limb** is the increase in river discharge.
4. **Falling limb** is the decrease in river discharge to normal level.



Case Study: The River Tees

Location and Background
Located in the North of England and flows 137km from the Pennines to the North Sea at Red Car.

Geomorphic Processes
Upper – Features include V-Shaped valley, rapids and waterfalls. Highforce Waterfall drops 21m and is made from harder Whinstone and softer limestone rocks. Gradually a gorge has been formed.
Middle – Features include meanders and ox-bow lakes. The meander near Yarm encloses the town.
Lower – Greater lateral erosion creates features such as floodplains & levees. Mudflats at the river's estuary.