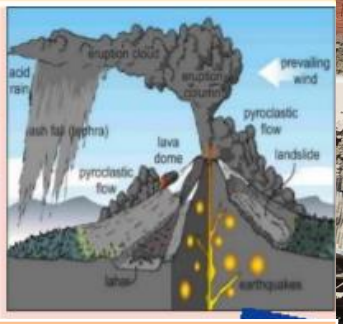
The structure of the Earth

The Crust	Varies in thickness (5-70 km). Made up of giant slabs of rock called tectonic plates. Can be oceanic or continental.
The Mantle	Widest layer (2900km thick). The heat and pressure means the rock is in a liquid state **(magma)** that is in a state of convection.
The Inner and outer Core	Hottest section (5000 degrees +). Mostly made of iron and nickel and is 4x denser than the crust. Inner section is solid whereas outer layer is liquid.

Volcanic Hazards

Ash cloud	Small pieces of pulverised rock and glass which are thrown into the atmosphere.
Gas	Sulphur dioxide, water vapour and carbon dioxide come out of the volcano.
Lahar	A volcanic mudflow which usually runs down a valley side on the volcano.
Pyroclastic flow	A fast moving cloud of super-heated gas and ash (up to 1000°C). They travel at up to 450mph down the side of the volcano
Volcanic bomb	A thick (viscous) lava fragment that is ejected from the volcano.



Convection Currents

The crust is divided into tectonic plates which are moving due to convection currents in the mantle.

1. Radioactive decay of some of the elements in the core and mantle generate a lot of heat.
2. When lower parts of the mantle molten rock (Magma) heat up they become **less dense** and **slowly rise**.
3. As they move towards the top they cool down, become **more dense** and **slowly sink**.
4. These **circular movements** of semi-molten rock are **convection currents**
5. Convection currents create **drag** on the base of the tectonic plates and this causes them to move.

Types of Plate Margins

Destructive Plate Margin

When the denser plate subducts beneath the other, friction causes it to **melt and become molten magma**. The magma forces its way up to the surface to form a volcano. This margin is also responsible for **devastating earthquakes**.

Constructive Plate Margin

Here two plates are **moving apart** causing new magma to reach the surface through the gap. Volcanoes formed along this crack cause a submarine mountain range such as those in the **Mid Atlantic Ridge**.

Conservative Plate Margin

A conservative plate boundary occurs where plates **slide past each other** in opposite directions, or in the same direction but at different speeds. This is responsible for earthquakes such as the ones happening along the San Andreas Fault, USA.

LIC case study Nepal 25th April 2015
Magnitude: 7.9 on the Richter scale

Causes
Indian and Eurasian plate colllided. Focus 15km deep; Epicentre 50 miles NW of Kathmandu.

Effects
9000 dead, 20,000 injured, 8,000,000 affected. Buildings and infrastructure destroyed; Communities cut off by landslides and avalanches; Flooding as landslides block rivers; Power, sanitation and communications cut; US$5 billion of damage.

Responses
Overseas aid (NGO's) plus helicopters for search, rescue and remote drops of supplies.
300,000 people left Kathmandu for shelter from family and friends.
Indian border blockade - fuel, medicine and construction material shortages.
Roads repaired, Floods drained, landslides cleared

Unit 1a

AQA

The Challenges of Natural Hazards

What is a Natural Hazard

A natural hazard is a natural process which could cause death, injury or disruption to humans, property and possessions.

Geological Hazard	Meteorological Hazard
These are hazards caused by land and tectonic processes.	These are hazards caused by weather and climate.

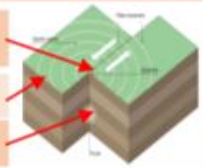
Causes of Earthquakes

Earthquakes are caused when two plates become **locked** causing **friction** to build up. From this **stress**, the **pressure** will eventually be released, triggering the plates to move into a new position. This movement causes energy in the form of **seismic waves**, to travel from the **focus** towards the **epicentre**. As a result, the crust vibrates triggering an earthquake.

The point directly above the focus, where the seismic waves reach first, is called the EPICENTRE.

SEISMIC WAVES (energy waves) travel out from the focus.

The point at which pressure is released is called the FOCUS.



Earthquake Management

PREDICTING

Methods include:
- Satellite surveying (tracks changes in the earth's surface)
- Laser reflector (surveys movement across fault lines)
- Radon gas sensor (radon gas is released when plates move so this finds that)
- Seismometer measures vibrations or shaking in the crust.
- Water table level (water levels fluctuate before an earthquake).
- Scientists also use seismic records to predict when the next event will occur.

PROTECTION

You can't stop earthquakes, so earthquake-prone regions follow these three methods to reduce potential damage:
- Building earthquake-resistant buildings
- Raising public awareness through education
- Improving earthquake prediction

NEE case study Chile 27th February 2010 (03:35am)
Magnitude: 8.8 on the Richter scale

Causes
Destructive plate boundary. The Nazca plate was subducted (pushed under) the South American Plate.
Epicentre: 70 miles away from the city of Concepcion
Focus: 22 miles (35 km) deep

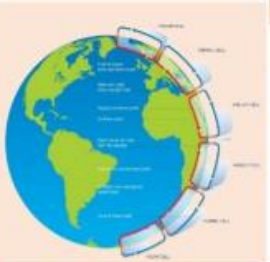
Effects
500 killed, 20,000 injured, 800,000 affected; 220,000 homes, 4500 schools, 53 ports, 56 hospitals destroyed; Main port and airport badly damaged; power, water and communications cut; US$30 billion damage.
Secondary effects, Tsunami devastated coastal towns; 1500km of roads damaged and communities cut off; Area around Santiago chemical plant evacuated due to a fire.

Responses
Temporary repairs to route 5 allowed aid into affected areas.
Power and water restored to 90% of homes within 10 days.
A national appeal raised money for 30,000 emergency shelters.
One month later a housing reconstruction plan was launched.
Not much foreign aid was needed due to Chile's strong economy.

Global pattern of air circulation

Atmospheric circulation is the large-scale movement of air by which heat is distributed on the surface of the Earth.

Hadley cell	Largest cell which extends from the **Equator** to between **30° to 40° north & south**.
Ferrel cell	Middle cell where air flows **poleward** between **60° & 70°** latitude.
Polar cell	**Smallest & weakest** cell that occurs from the poles to the Ferrel cell.

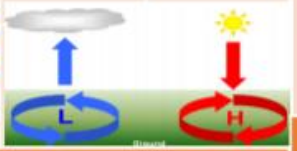


Distribution of Tropical Storms.

They are known by many names, including hurricanes (North America), cyclones (India) and typhoons (Japan and East Asia). They all occur in a band that lies roughly 5-15° either side of the Equator.

High and Low Pressure

Low Pressure	High Pressure
Caused by hot air rising. Causes stormy, cloudy weather.	Caused by cold air sinking. Causes clear and calm weather.



Formation of Tropical Storms

1	The sun's rays heats large areas of ocean in the summer and autumn. This causes **warm, moist air** to rise over the particular spots
2	Once the **ocean temperature is 27°**, the rising warm moist air leads to a **low pressure**. This eventually turns into a thunderstorm. This causes air to be sucked in from the **trade winds**.
3	With trade winds blowing in the opposite direction and the rotation of earth involved (Coriolis effect), the thunderstorm will eventually start to **spin**.
4	When the storm begins to **spin faster than 74mph**, a tropical storm (such as a hurricane) is officially born.
5	With the tropical storm growing in power, **more cool air sinks** in the centre of the storm, creating calm, clear conditions called the **eye of the storm**.
6	When the tropical storm hits land, it **loses its energy source** (the warm ocean) and it begins to lose strength. Eventually it will 'blow itself out'.

Changing pattern of Tropical Storms

Scientist believe that global warming is having an impact on the frequency and strength of tropical storms. This may be due to an increase in ocean temperatures.

Management of Tropical Storms

Protection
Preparing for a tropical storm may involve construction projects such as sea walls that will improve protection.

Aid
Aid involves assisting after the storm, commonly in LIC's.

Development
The scale of the impacts depends on whether the country has the resources to cope with the storm.

Planning
Involves getting people and the emergency services ready to deal with the impacts.

Prediction
Constant monitoring by satellites can help to give advanced warning of a TS

Education
Teaching people about what to do in a tropical storm.

Primary Effects of Tropical Storms

- The intense winds of tropical storms can destroy whole **communities, buildings** and **communication networks**.
- As well as their own destructive energy, the winds can generate abnormally high waves called **storm surges**.
- Sometimes the most destructive elements of a storm are these subsequent **high seas and flooding** they cause to coastal areas.

Secondary Effects of Tropical Storms

- People are **left homeless**, which can cause distress, poverty and ill health due to lack of shelter.
- **Shortage of clean water** and **lack of proper sanitation** makes it easier for diseases to spread.
- **Businesses are damaged** or destroyed causing unemployment.
- Shortage of food as **crops are damaged**.

Case Study: Typhoon Haiyan 2013

Causes
Started as a tropical depression on **2nd November 2013** and gained strength. Became a Category 5 **"super typhoon"** and made landfall on the Pacific islands of the Philippines.

Effects
- Almost **6,500 deaths**.
- **130,000 homes destroyed.**
- Water and sewage systems destroyed which caused **diseases**.
- **Emotional grief** for dead.

Management
- The UN raised **£190m in aid**.
- USA & UK **sent helicopter carrier ships to** deliver aid to remote areas.
- **Education** on typhoon preparedness.

Extreme weather in the UK Case Study: Somerset Levels floods

Causes - Wettest January since 1910 & a series of depressions from the Atlantic ocean brought several weeks of very wet weather. The low lying farmland of the levels & 350mm or rain in January and February led to extensive flooding.

Effects
- Over 600 houses flooded
- £10 million in flood damage
- Floodwaters polluted with sewage, oil & chemicals.
- Power supplies cut off
- Road & rail links cut off

Management
- Flood victims travelled around in boats to go shopping & et to work
- £20 million flood action plan launched by Somerset council
- Rivers Tone & Parratt dredged to remove silt

What is Climate Change?

Climate change is a large-scale, long-term shift in the planet's weather patterns or average temperatures. Earth has had tropical climates and ice ages many times in its 4.5 billion years.

Recent Evidence for climate change.

Global temperature	Average global temperatures have increased by more than **0.6°C since 1950**.
Ice sheets & glaciers	Many of the world's glaciers and ice sheets are melting. E.g. the Arctic sea ice has declined by **10% in 30 years**.
Sea Level Change	Average global **sea level has risen by 10-20cms** in the past 100 years. This is due to the additional water from ice and thermal expansion.

Enhanced Greenhouse Effect

Recently there has been an increase in **humans burning fossil fuels** for energy. These fuels (gas, coal and oil) emit **greenhouse gases**. This is making the Earth's atmosphere thicker, therefore trapping more solar radiation and causing **less to be reflected**. As a result, the Earth is becoming warmer.

Evidence of natural change

Orbital Changes	Some argue that climate change is linked to how the Earth orbits the Sun, and the way it wobbles and tilts as it does it.
Sun Spots	Dark spots on the Sun are called Sun spots. They increase the **amount of energy Earth receives** from the Sun.
Volcanic Eruptions	Volcanoes release large amounts of **dust containing gases**. These can **block sunlight** and results in cooler temperatures.

Managing Climate Change

Carbon Capture
This involves new technology designed to reduce climate change.

Planting Trees
Planting trees increases the amount of carbon absorbed from the atmosphere.

International Agreements
Countries aim to cut emissions by signing international deals and by setting targets.

Renewable Energy
Replacing fossil fuels with clean/natural sources of energy like wind or solar