

# **AQA Geography A-level**

## Population and the Environment

### Glossary of Definitions

**Agricultural Productivity** - The ratio of useful output (yield) to input, showing the efficiency of a farm.

**Arable Farming** - Growing crops and plant-based foods.

**Asylum Seekers** - People fleeing their country of residence for international protection by another government.

**Biologically Transmitted Disease** - A disease that is passed on by a pathogen (e.g. a bacterium or virus), causing illness, e.g. malaria

**Boserup's Theory** - No matter how large the population grows, we will discover new ways to sustain food supplies.

**Commercial Farming** - Agriculture with the intention of providing yields that can be sold commercially, making a profit.

**Cover Crop** - A crop with a large surface area, used to cover a bare field to reduce soil erosion and maintain the structure of the topsoil.

**Crop Yield** - The amount of grains, vegetables or fruits produced from a unit area of land (units = kilograms per hectare).

**Demographic Transition Model** - A model describing overall population change, mortality and fertility rates over time.

**Density** - The number of people per unit area (often per km<sup>2</sup>).

**Desertification** - Fertile land becomes dry and desert-like, reducing in productivity and vulnerable to erosion.

**Development Process** - The process of a society advancing over time through technological improvements, changes in knowledge and attitudes or improving the efficiency of industrial processes.

**Ecological Footprint** - The amount of resources used in relation to the available resources on Earth. A footprint larger than 1 means consumption is greater than the available resources on Earth, making it unsustainable living.

**Economic Migrants** - The movement of an individual to improve their financial wealth and quality of living.

**Epidemiological Transition Model** - A model describing how morbidity varies - as a society develops over time, infectious diseases will decrease but non-communicable diseases will increase.

**Extensive Farming** - Low inputs in relation to the amount of land farmed, i.e. low amounts of labour, capital investment or stock needed to produce a sufficient yield, but without too much investment.

**Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)** - An IGO which aims to improve global health by reducing hunger.

**Food Insecurity** - An individual does not consume healthy food or the necessary energy input in calories each day.

**The Green Revolution** - During the 1950s and 60s, more technology and efficient farming practices were adopted to improve crop yield.

**Gullies** - Rills that grow in size over time into much larger ravines.

**The Industrial Revolution** - During the mid-1700s, manufacturing became increasingly mechanised, reducing labour costs and accelerating economic growth, urbanisation of some villages and towns and improving the speed of transportation with steam engines.

**Infectious Disease** - A disease caused by pathogens (bacteria or virus) entering and multiplying within the body, e.g. flu, norovirus, Athlete's foot.

**Intensive Farming** - High inputs in relation to the amount of land farmed, i.e. large amounts of labour, capital investment or stock needed to maximise yield.

**Irrigation** - The process of regularly watering crops, rather than relying on precipitation for water.

**Malthusian Perspective** - Population will increase exponentially, but resources available can only increase linearly. Hence, the population will eventually run out of resources (food, water, etc.)

**Mortality Rate** - The number of deaths per 1000 over time.

**Morbidity** - The occurrence of diseases within a population over time.

**Neolithic Revolution** - A shift in mobile hunter-gatherer populations to agricultural communities approximately 12,000 years ago.

**Non-Communicable Diseases** - Disease that can't be spread by bacteria or virus, often due to lifestyle and working environment e.g. cancer, cardiovascular disease.

**Pastoral Farming** - Tending to livestock and cattle-rearing to produce meat, poultry or dairy food products.

**Population** - The number of people within a defined area.

**Population Parameter** - Different measurable factors to describe population: density, distribution, rate of change, etc.

**Population, Resources and Pollution Model (PRP)** - A model that describes the positive and negative feedback loops between population, resources and pollution.

**Refugees** - An individual fleeing natural disaster, conflict or persecution.

**Rills** - Small streams that develop over time as water erodes a small path on a slope.

**Riverbank Erosion** - The degradation of riverbanks, causing large sections of the bank to erode and become waterlogged.

**Salinisation** - An increase in the salt content of the soil, due to saline water rising within soils, poor drainage of irrigation water or groundwater levels rise.

**Sheet Erosion** - The widespread removal of topsoil, washed away uniformly due to heavy rainfall and flooding.

**Simon's Theory** - Humans are the ultimate resource, and we will invent new ways to sustain life and resources.

**Structural Deterioration** - The loss of the structure of the soil, especially pores within the soil that contain air.

**Subsidence Farming** - Self-sufficient farming, where crops are grown only to support those growing the crops family or community, with little or no profit.

**Topsoil** - The upper layer of soil, responsible for providing the majority of nutrients and structure for agricultural activities.

**Vector-borne Diseases (VBD)** - Diseases that can be passed between individuals by parasites or through hosts, e.g. Chagas Disease, Malaria, Lyme Disease.

**Water Erosion** - The degradation and wearing away of soil due to water.

**Waterlogging** - Soil becomes oversaturated with water or a lack of oxygen within the soil, meaning plants cannot respire aerobically and are vulnerable to rot.

**Wind Erosion** - High winds and dry climates transport soil particles and rocks across land, through creeping, saltation and suspension.

**World Food Programme** - An IGO aiming to eradicate world hunger across the globe by providing aid in emergencies or improve nutrition within developing communities.

**World Health Organisation (WHO)** - A branch of the United Nations, aiming to improve global health and eradicate disease.