 **Speak like a geographer**

**Weather Hazards**

The keywords and definitions, that cover weather hazards below, are provided by AQA. There are more than those listed on your Get Into Geography sheet. Start with those listed then build up to the others.

# Economic impact

The effect of an event on the wealth of an area or community.

# Environmental impact

The effect of an event on the landscape and ecology of the surrounding area.

# Extreme weather

This is when a weather event is significantly different from the average or usual weather pattern, and is especially severe or unseasonal. This may take place over one day or a period of time. A severe snow blizzard or heat wave are two examples of extreme weather in the UK.

# Global atmospheric circulation

The worldwide system of winds, which transports heat from tropical to polar latitudes. In each hemisphere, air also circulates through the entire depth of the troposphere which extends up to 15 km.

# Immediate responses

The reaction of people as the disaster happens and in the immediate aftermath.

# Long-term responses

Later reactions that occur in the weeks, months and years after the event.

# Management strategies

Techniques of controlling, responding to, or dealing with an event.

# Monitoring

Recording physical changes, such as tracking a tropical storm by satellite, to help forecast when and where a natural hazard might strike.

# Planning

Actions taken to enable communities to respond to, and recover from, natural disasters, through measures such as emergency evacuation plans, information management, communications and warning systems.

# Prediction

Attempts to forecast when and where a natural hazard will strike, based on current knowledge. This can be done to some extent for tropical storms (and volcanic eruptions, but less reliably for earthquakes).

# Primary effects

The initial impact of a natural event on people and property, caused directly by it, for instance buildings being partially or wholly destroyed by a tropical storm.

# Protection

Actions taken before a hazard strikes to reduce its impact, such as educating people or improving building design.

# Secondary effects

The after-effects that occur as indirect impacts of a natural event, sometimes on a longer timescale, for instance impact on access to potable water can lead to spread of disease.

# Social impact

The effect of an event on the lives of people or community.

# Tropical storm (hurricane, cyclone, typhoon)

An area of low pressure with winds moving in a spiral around the calm central point called the eye of the storm. Winds are powerful and rainfall is heavy.

# Climate change Adaptation

Actions taken to adjust to natural events such as climate change, to reduce potential damage, limit the impacts, take advantage of opportunities, or cope with the consequences.

# Climate change

A long-term change in the earth's climate, especially a change due to an increase in the average atmospheric temperature.

# Mitigation

Action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from natural hazards, such as building earthquake-proof buildings or making international agreements about carbon reduction targets.

# Orbital changes

Changes in the pathway of the Earth around the Sun.

# Quaternary period

The period of geological time from about 2.6 million years ago to the present. It is characterized by the appearance and development of humans and includes the Pleistocene and Holocene Epochs.