

AQA Geography A-level

Resource Security Glossary of Definitions



Carbon Trading - The restriction of carbon emissions by countries or companies. Companies under their carbon emissions cap can 'sell' to other companies.

Decentralised Energy - Energy produced away from the National Grid and close to where it will be used.

Energy Mix - The composition of a country's energy sources.

Energy Security - The ownership and full control of a country's energy source, production and transportation.

Energy Pathway - The movement of energy from its extraction or source, through pipes, freight logistics or cabling.

Energy Players - Key companies and individuals who own, distribute and sell energy and energy sources.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) - An assessment of the possible environmental impacts of a resource development project.

Exploitation - The process of extracting the resource.

Exploration - The process of searching for available resources.

Flow Resource - A resource of infinite supply and so can be replenished and renewed e.g. Biofuel.

Greywater Recycling - Reusing water already used in a non-toxic process (washing pots, etc).

Hubbert's Curve - The amount of resources extracted by a country over time, which follows a bell-shaped curve.

Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) - Managing the supply of water from a river basin, optimising the supply of water whilst protecting the environment and ensuring fair distribution of water.

Mineral - A naturally occurring compound formed by chemical processes.

Non-Renewable - A source of energy that can only be used once to generate electricity or takes thousands of years to replace e.g. Fossil Fuels.

Nuclear Fusion - The process of joining atomic nuclei together, to produce energy.

Primary Energy - The initial source of energy, as it is naturally found. This could be natural ores, water, crops or radioactive material.



Rainwater Harvesting System (RHS) - Collecting rainwater for use. Rainwater is cleaner than greywater.

Renewable - Primary energy that can be re-used to produce electricity or has a short lifetime, therefore any used can be replaced quickly e.g. Hydroelectric, biomass, solar.

Resource - Any type of asset, commodity or item which can enhance the quality of life or improve a function's efficiency.

Resource Frontier - The boundary between exploited area and areas considered too difficult to exploit.

Secondary Energy - The product of primary energy, mostly electricity.

Stock Resource - A resource of finite supply and so will run out eventually e.g. Fossil Fuels.

Sustainable Resource Development - Long-term planning to ensure the rate of extraction doesn't rise above an unsustainable level.

Virtual Water Trade - The trade of items that have a water footprint.

Water Conflict - Any disagreement between groups of people over water resources.

Water Stress - Demand for water exceeds the supply of clean, non-polluted water.

Water Scarcity - Renewable water supply is less than 1000m^3

Water Footprint - The water demand per person for the services you use and products you consume.

