Keyword List: The Carbon Cycle

- **Carbon** – An element found in different forms and stored in different parts of the Earth.
- **Carbon cycle** – The movement of carbon between different stores through a series of processes.
- **Carbon store** – A place where carbon is held within the carbon cycle.

The Fast Carbon Cycle

- **Fast carbon cycle** – The part of the carbon cycle that operates quickly and affects living organisms on land and the surface of the ocean.
- **Decomposition** – The breakdown of dead organic matter, transferring carbon into other parts of the carbon cycle.
- **Combustion** – The burning of material, releasing carbon.
- **Photosynthesis** – The process by which plants use carbon dioxide to make food.
- **Respiration** – A process in living organisms that releases carbon dioxide.

The Slow Carbon Cycle

- **Slow carbon cycle** – The part of the carbon cycle that operates over much longer periods and produces rocks and fossil fuels.
- **Sedimentary rock** – Rock formed from material that accumulates and is compressed, particularly in oceans.
- **Igneous rock** – Rock formed from volcanic material.

- **Metamorphic rock** – Rock formed when existing rock is changed by heat and pressure within the Earth's crust.
- **Rock cycle** – The process through which rocks can change from one type of rock into another.
- **Fossil fuel** – A fuel formed from fossilised living organisms over long periods of time.

Global Impacts

- **Global warming** – The increase in global average temperatures.
- **Climate change** – Long-term changes in weather patterns, often because of global warming.
- **Greenhouse gas** – A gas in the atmosphere that contributes to the greenhouse effect.
- **Natural Greenhouse Effect** – The natural process in which greenhouse gases trap radiation in the atmosphere, causing heat.
- **Enhanced Greenhouse Effect** – The increase in the greenhouse effect caused by humans releasing additional greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.