Keyword List – NATURAL HAZARDS

Tectonic Forces

- **Exogenic forces** – External forces that shape the Earth's surface, such as weathering, erosion and glacial activity.
- **Endogenic forces** – Internal forces that shape the Earth's surface, including tectonic activity and volcanic eruptions.
- **Weathering** – The breakdown of rock in situ (where it is).
- **Erosion** – The wearing away and removal of rock by moving agents such as water, wind or ice.
- **Transportation** – The movement of material by agents such as water, wind or ice.
- **Deposition** – The laying down of transported material.
- **Tectonic forces** – Internal forces caused by the movement of the Earth's tectonic plates.

Continental Drift and Plate Tectonics

- **Continental drift** – The theory that continents were once joined together and have gradually moved to their present locations.
- **Tectonic plate** – A large section of the Earth's surface that moves over the mantle.
- **Mantle** – The layer beneath the Earth's crust on which tectonic plates move.
- **Magma** – Molten rock found beneath the Earth's surface.
- **Convection currents** – Circular movements caused by hotter, less dense magma rising and cooler, denser magma sinking, helping to move tectonic plates.

- **Ridge push** – The force of rising magma that pushes newly formed oceanic crust away from a ridge.
- **Slab pull** – The force created when a dense oceanic plate sinks into the mantle and pulls the rest of the plate with it.
- **Subduction** – The process where a dense oceanic plate sinks into the mantle.
- **Oceanic crust** – Dense crust found beneath the oceans.
- **Continental crust** – More buoyant crust that forms the continents.
- **Plate margin** – The boundary where two tectonic plates meet.

Tectonic Processes in the UK

- **Fold mountain** – A mountain formed when rock layers are compressed and folded.
- **Folding** – The bending or curving of rock layers due to compression.
- **Compression** – A force that pushes rocks together.
- **Faulting** – The fracturing and displacement of rock layers along a break.
- **Fault** – A break or fracture in the Earth’s crust along which movement occurs.
- **Strike-slip fault** – A fault where land on either side moves horizontally in opposite directions.