 **Speak like a geographer**

**Natural hazards, earthquakes and volcanoes**

The keywords and definitions, that cover Natural hazards, earthquakes and volcanoes 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.

# Hazard risk

The probability or chance that a natural hazard may take place.

# Natural hazard

A natural event (for example an earthquake, volcanic eruption, tropical storm, flood) that threatens people or has the potential to cause damage, destruction and death.

# Tectonic hazards Conservative plate margin

Tectonic plate margin where two tectonic plates slide past each other.

# Constructive plate margin

Tectonic plate margin where rising magma adds new material to plates that are diverging or moving apart.

# Destructive plate margin

Tectonic plate margin where two plates are converging or coming together and oceanic plate is subducted. It can be associated with violent earthquakes and explosive volcanoes.

# Earthquake

A sudden or violent movement within the Earth’s crust followed by a series of shocks.

# 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.

# Monitoring

Recording physical changes, such as earthquake tremors around a volcano, to help forecast when and where a natural hazard might strike.

# Plate margin

The margin or boundary between two tectonic plates.

# 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 volcanic eruptions (and tropical storms), but less reliably for earthquakes.

# Primary effects

The initial impact of a natural event on people and property, caused directly by it, for instance the ground buildings collapsing following an earthquake.

# 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 fires due to ruptured gas mains resulting from the ground shaking.

# Tectonic hazard

A natural hazard caused by movement of tectonic plates (including volcanoes and earthquakes).

# Tectonic plate

A rigid segment of the Earth’s crust which can ‘float’ across the heavier, semi- molten rock below. Continental plates are less dense, but thicker than oceanic plates.

# Volcano

An opening in the Earth’s crust from which lava, ash and gases erupt.