Atmosphere and climate change

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Environmental Systems and Societies · HL · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
atmosphere /'ætməsfɪə/	The **atmosphere** is the layer of gases around Earth.
troposphere /'trɒpəsfɪə/	Most weather occurs in the **troposphere**.
stratosphere /'strætəsfɪə/	The **stratosphere** contains the protective ozone layer.
ozone layer /'əʊzəʊn 'leɪə/	The **ozone layer** absorbs much harmful ultraviolet radiation.
short-wave radiation	The Sun supplies Earth with **short-wave radiation**.
albedo	Snow has a high **albedo**: it reflects most sunlight.
long-wave radiation	Earth's warm surface emits **long-wave radiation**.
greenhouse gas /'gri:nhaʊs gæs/	Carbon dioxide is a **greenhouse gas**.
greenhouse effect /'gri:nhaʊs ɪ'fekt/	The **greenhouse effect** keeps the Earth warm.
enhanced greenhouse effect /en'hænst 'gri:nhaʊs ɪ'fekt/	Extra greenhouse gases cause the **enhanced greenhouse effect**.
ice-albedo feedback	In the **ice-albedo feedback**, melting ice reflects less sunlight, so more ice melts.
permafrost	**Permafrost** is ground that stays frozen all year.

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tipping point	After a **tipping point**, a system cannot easily go back.
coral bleaching /'kɒrəl 'bli:tʃɪŋ/	Hot seawater can cause **coral bleaching**: the coral turns white.
mitigation /ˌmɪtɪ'geɪʃn/	Using solar power instead of coal is a kind of **mitigation**.
adaptation /əˌdæp'teɪʃn/	Building sea walls is a kind of **adaptation** to rising seas.
carbon capture and storage	**Carbon capture and storage** pumps carbon dioxide underground.
carbon tax	A **carbon tax** charges for carbon emissions.
emissions trading scheme	Companies trade emission permits in an **emissions trading scheme**.
geoengineering	**Geoengineering** means changing the Earth's climate on purpose.
Paris Agreement	In the **Paris Agreement**, countries promised to limit global warming.
net zero	**Net zero** means removing as much carbon dioxide as we release.
sponge city	A **sponge city** uses parks and permeable surfaces to absorb rain.
ozone /'əʊzəʊn/	An **ozone** molecule contains three oxygen atoms.
ultraviolet /ˌʌltrə'vaɪəlɪt/	**Ultraviolet** light from the Sun can burn your skin.

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dynamic equilibrium /daɪˈnæmɪk ˌiːkwɪˈlɪbrɪəm/	At **dynamic equilibrium**, both reactions go at the same rate.
ozone-depleting substance	CFCs are an **ozone-depleting substance**. CFCs
chlorofluorocarbon	A **chlorofluorocarbon** contains carbon, chlorine and fluorine.
ozone hole	The **ozone hole** appears over Antarctica every spring.
Montreal Protocol /ˌmɒntrɪˈɔːl ˈprəʊtəkɒl/	The **Montreal Protocol** banned CFCs to protect the ozone layer. CFCs

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