

Year 9 Autumn Term Assessment Descriptors – Tectonic Hazards

	Knowledge	Skills
Strong	Evaluates and explains tectonic hazards in depth, using detailed knowledge of Earth's structure, plate boundaries and case studies to analyse risk and critically assess the effectiveness of management strategies.	Demonstrates advanced geographical skills by critically analysing and synthesising a wide range of sources, applying detailed case study knowledge, and constructing well-reasoned, evidence-based evaluations of tectonic hazards and management strategies.
Confident	Demonstrates detailed understanding of hazard types and plate tectonics, explaining how different plate boundaries create hazards, using case studies and comparisons to assess risk, impacts, and the effectiveness of management strategies.	Independently applies geographical skills to interpret and analyse a range of sources, explain tectonic patterns and processes, use detailed case study evidence, and evaluate management strategies through well-structured, evidence-based responses.
Developing	Describes and categorises different hazards, partially explains how plate movement creates key tectonic features, and outlines characteristics, impacts and management of earthquakes and volcanoes using relevant case study detail.	Uses geographical skills with some accuracy to interpret maps and sources, describe patterns and hazards, recall case study details, and begin to explain management strategies while developing research and summarising skills.
Emerging	Recognises basic types of natural hazards, understands the structure of the Earth and where tectonic hazards occur, and can describe simple features and examples of earthquakes and volcanoes while showing awareness of their impacts on people and places.	Uses basic geographical skills to identify and describe hazards from simple sources, recognise patterns, label diagrams with support, and recall limited case study information while beginning to research answers independently.