



Core units: Exemplars – Year 7

Illustration 1: Droughts and flooding rains

## Climate terminology

**Average:** An arithmetical mean quantity, calculated by adding all the numbers (the collected data) and then dividing this sum by how many numbers there were.

**Climate:** The average conditions of the atmosphere at a given place (usually calculated over a 30 year period).

**Drought:** An extended period of time over which a place experiences lower than expected (average) rainfall.

**Evaporation:** The process by which liquid water becomes a vapour.

**Precipitation:** Any form of moisture in the atmosphere that falls to earth (snow, sleet, hail or rain).

**Rainfall:** Moisture in the atmosphere that falls to earth as liquid water.

**Rainfall variability:** The degree to which rainfall varies, over a period of years, from the average.

**Weather:** The condition of the atmosphere, over the short term, at a given place.