

Air and the Atmosphere

Chapter 14: Air and the Atmosphere · Topic 1

Key Concept

Air is mainly nitrogen (78%) and oxygen (21%), with smaller amounts of carbon dioxide, argon, and water vapour.

The atmosphere has distinct layers, with the troposphere (closest to Earth) being where weather occurs and where we live and breathe.

The ozone layer, in the stratosphere, absorbs most of the Sun's harmful ultraviolet radiation, protecting living things.

Air pollution, from sources like vehicles and factories, can harm air quality, human health, and the broader environment.

Quick Revision Notes

- Air is mainly nitrogen (78%) and oxygen (21%).
- Other gases include carbon dioxide, argon, water vapour.
- The troposphere is closest to Earth.
- Weather occurs in the troposphere.
- The ozone layer is in the stratosphere.
- It absorbs harmful ultraviolet radiation.
- This protects living things.
- Air pollution harms health and environment.

Practice Questions

- 1 List the main components of air.
- 2 Discuss the role of the ozone layer.
- 3 Research a source of air pollution.
- 4 Explain why the troposphere is important.
- 5 Discuss how air pollution affects health.
- 6 Research a way to reduce air pollution.