

Precipitation

Chapter 5: Precipitation · Topic 1

Key Concept

Precipitation occurs when water vapour in clouds condenses and becomes too heavy to remain suspended, falling as rain, snow, sleet, or hail.

Rain forms when water droplets in clouds combine and grow large enough to fall, common in warmer temperatures.

Snow forms when temperatures are cold enough for water vapour to freeze directly into ice crystals, falling as snowflakes.

Precipitation patterns vary globally due to factors like latitude, altitude, ocean currents, and prevailing wind patterns, creating diverse climates.

Quick Revision Notes

- Precipitation: water falling from atmosphere.
- Forms: rain, snow, sleet, hail.
- Occurs when water vapour condenses, gets heavy.
- Rain: water droplets combine, grow, fall.
- Common in warmer temperatures.
- Snow: water vapour freezes into ice crystals.
- Precipitation patterns vary globally.
- Factors: latitude, altitude, currents, wind.

Practice Questions

- 1 Discuss the different forms of precipitation.
- 2 Research how rain forms in clouds.
- 3 Research how snow forms in clouds.
- 4 Discuss factors affecting precipitation patterns.
- 5 Observe today's weather and note any precipitation.
- 6 Explain precipitation's role in the water cycle.