



Water In The Atmosphere

- Water vapour is water present in the atmosphere in gaseous form.
- Humidity is the amount of water vapour present in air.
- Three types of humidity are absolute humidity, specific humidity and relative humidity.
- When relative humidity is 100%, air is saturated.
- Dew point is the temperature at which saturation occurs.
- Condensation occurs when air cools to dew point or becomes saturated.
- Dew forms when moisture condenses as water droplets on solid objects.
- Frost forms when dew point is below freezing point and water vapour changes directly into ice crystals.
- Fog is a cloud formed close to the ground.
- Clouds form by condensation of water vapour around hygroscopic nuclei.
- High clouds: cirrus, cirrocumulus and cirrostratus.
- Mid-level clouds: altocumulus, altostratus and nimbostratus.





- Low-level clouds: cumulus, stratocumulus, stratus and cumulonimbus.
- Cirrus clouds are fibrous and composed of ice crystals.
- Cirrostratus clouds produce halo around the Sun or Moon.
- Cumulonimbus clouds produce thunderstorms, hail, lightning and sometimes tornadoes.
- Precipitation is water falling on Earth in solid or liquid form.
- Drizzle droplets are less than 0.5 mm in diameter.
- Rainfall types are convectional, orographic and cyclonic rainfall.
- Orographic rainfall creates heavy rain on windward slope and rain-shadow area on leeward slope.
- Snowfall occurs below 0°C when water vapour changes into ice crystals.
- Sleet is frozen rain; hail is ice balls or lumps; graupel is soft snow pellet.



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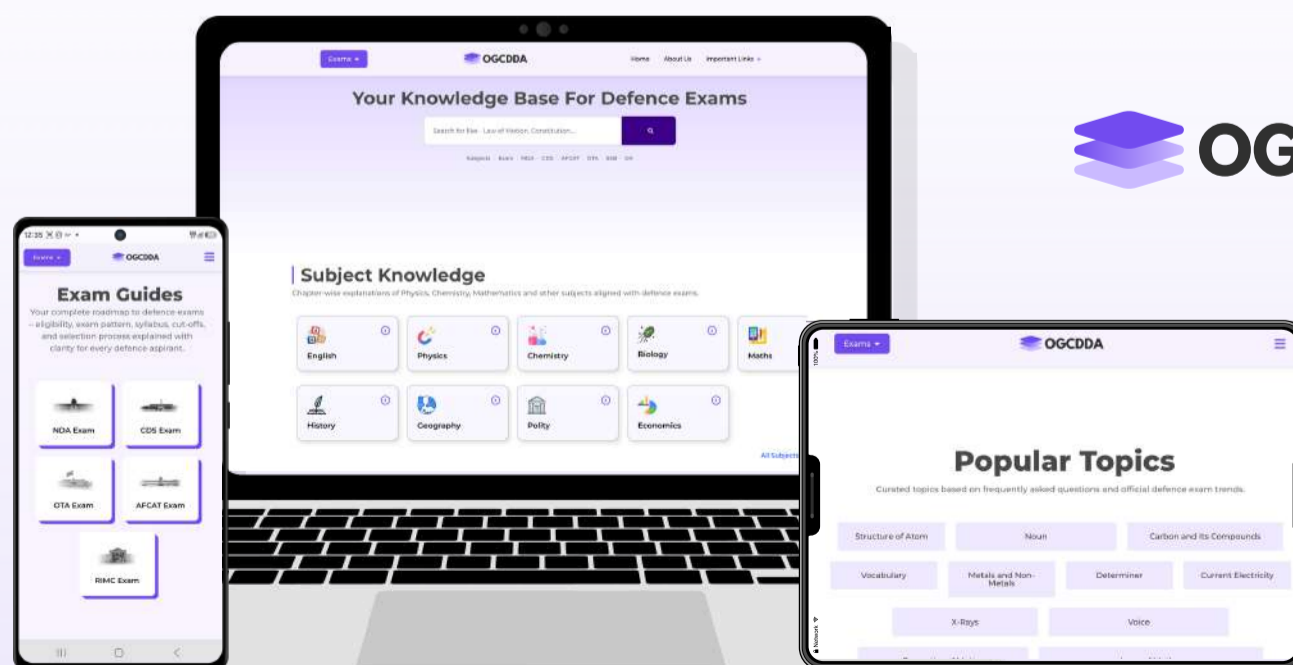
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