

KEY FACTS

- Evaporation: water → water vapour (from oceans, lakes, rivers)
- Transpiration: water vapour from plant leaves through stomata
- Condensation: water vapour cools → droplets → clouds
- Precipitation: water falls as rain/snow/sleet
- Runoff: water flows to rivers → back to sea. Infiltration: soaks into ground

KEY TERMS

Evaporation	Liquid water → water vapour, driven by solar energy
Transpiration	Water vapour lost from plant leaves through stomata
Condensation	Water vapour → water droplets — forms clouds
Precipitation	Water falling from clouds — rain, snow, hail, sleet

■ EXAM TIP: Water cycle is driven by SOLAR ENERGY (evaporation) and GRAVITY (precipitation, runoff). Know all four main stages: evaporation → condensation → precipitation → runoff.