

## LONDON CLIMATE

- Mean annual temperature 10.6C
- Hottest mean monthly temperature July 18C
- Coldest mean monthly temperature January 4C
- Annual temperature range 14C
- Frost free period 12 months
- Growing season 9-10 months, approximately 280 - 300 days
- Total annual rainfall 593mm, evenly distributed throughout the year
- Percentage of rainfall April to September 49%

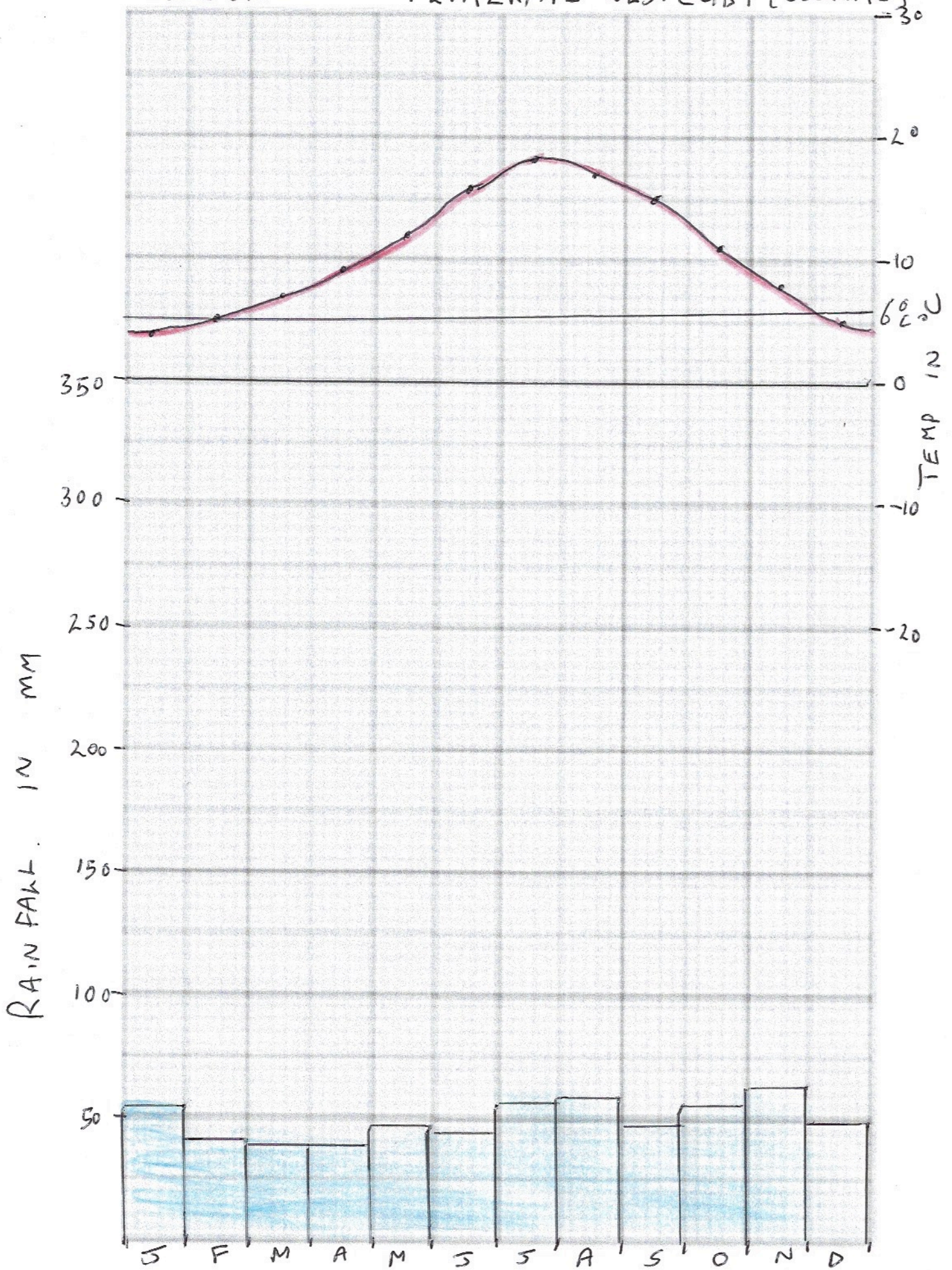
London has a mean annual temperature of 10.6 degrees Celsius, which is a moderate temperature, making the United Kingdom climate a temperate one. This is what you would expect from a place that sits at an altitude of 5 m and a latitude of 51 degrees north of the equator. The warmest month is July with a mean temperature of 18C and the coldest month is January with a mean temperature of 4C. This gives London a moderate annual temperature range of 14C, again what you would expect in temperate latitudes in an oceanic position where the moderating influence of the nearby Atlantic Ocean and a warm ocean current, the North Atlantic Drift (an extension of the Gulf Stream) make extremes of temperatures very rare.

The apparent frost free period is 12 months with no month having an average temperature at or below 0C. The means calculated to give climatic data, however, mask the fact that any of the winter months, even where mean temperatures stay above zero could have frosts, even quite severe ones, particularly on clear, calm nights. The growing season, the time when temperatures are above 6C, is about 9-10 months, 280 to 300 days.

The mean total annual rainfall is 593mm, this is a low to moderate total. Although the UK has a maritime/oceanic location, London is in the east away from the Atlantic coast and is in the rain shadow of the mountains to the west of Britain. The rainfall is fairly evenly spread throughout the year and there is no marked dry season. In fact 49% of the total rainfall total is in the months of April to September inclusive. This is due to the prevailing westerly winds and regular passage of fronts and depressions. The climate graph shows that there may be a slight late summer/autumn maximum which points to the development of convective precipitation caused by the build up of heat.

LONDON

TEMPERATE WESTCOAST (OCEANIC) }  
-30



## **CALCUTTA (KOLKATA) CLIMATE**

- Mean annual temperature 26.3C
- Hottest mean monthly temperature April, May, June 30C
- Coolest mean monthly temperature January 19C
- Annual temperature range 11C
- Frost free period 12 months (365 days)
- Growing season 12 months (365 days)
- Total annual rainfall 1601mm, with a marked summer maximum
- Percentage of rainfall April to September 86.5%

Calcutta has a mean annual temperature of 26.3 degrees Celsius. This is a high average temperature and is what you would expect for a tropical climate at a city only 23 degrees north of the equator. The hottest monthly temperature is 30C, in the months of April, May and June, and the coolest is 19C in January. This gives an annual temperature range of only 11C which is quite low and again is what you would expect for a tropical city at sea level on the Bay of Bengal. The hottest months should be July and August but the high rainfall and higher cloudiness in those months lowers the temperature slightly.

The average temperatures never drop below freezing or 6C, so the frost free period and growing season are 12 months long. This means crops can be grown throughout the year and the only limiting factor will be the amount of water available.

The total annual rainfall is very high at 1601 mm and it is very unevenly distributed throughout the year. The cooler, winter period is the dry season and the warmer 'monsoon' season (April to September) gets 86.5% of the total rainfall. The monsoon season of heavy rainfall starts quite suddenly, when the monsoon is said to 'break', in the months of May/June and reaches a peak in July and August. The dry season is marked by winds blowing from the Indian subcontinent, but in the summer monsoon the pressure over the centre of the subcontinent falls as temperatures rise and moist winds are drawn in from the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal.

CALCUTTA

TROPICAL MONSOON

