

AQA GCSE GEOGRAPHY

SPECIFICATION OUTLINE

Topics Studied;

Year 10:

1. Urban Issues and Challenges
2. The Challenge of Natural Hazards
3. UK Physical Landscapes (including coasts and rivers)
4. Fieldwork 1 – Coastal Engineering at Dawlish Warren

Year 11:

1. The Living World
2. Resource Management
3. The Changing Economic World
4. Fieldwork 2 – Wellington Traffic Survey

Key:



Key Word



Case Studies



Places



Concepts/Processes



Unit 1: Urban Issues and Challenges



Key Ideas	What we will learn:	😊	😐	☹️
1) Urbanisation is the process where an increasing percentage of the world's population live in urban areas.	<p>The global pattern of urban change and urban trends in different parts of the world including HICs and LICs.</p> <p>Factors affecting the rate of urbanisation - migration (push - pull theory), natural increase.</p> <p>The emergence of mega-cities.</p>			
2) Growth of cities in LICs and NEEs creates opportunities and challenges	<p>A case study of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The location and importance of the city, regionally, nationally and internationally Causes of growth: natural increase and migration How urban growth has created social and economic opportunities including access to health and education services clean water and energy and new jobs. How urban growth has created challenges for example the growth of slums and squatter settlements, difficulties in providing clean water, sanitation systems, energy and health and education services. Reducing the problems of unemployment and crime and environmental issues including waste disposal, air and water pollution and traffic congestion. 			
3) Urban change in cities in the UK leads to a variety of social, economic and environmental opportunities and challenges	<p>Overview of the distribution of population and the major cities in the UK.</p> <p>A case study of Bristol, a major city in the UK to illustrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bristol's location and importance in the UK and the wider world Impacts of national and international migration on the growth and character of the city How urban change has created social environmental and economic opportunities including: cultural mix, recreation and entertainment, employment integrated transport systems and urban greening How urban change has created challenges, both social and economic: urban deprivation, inequalities in housing, education, health and employment and environmental: dereliction, building on brownfield sites, waste disposal and the impact of urban sprawl on the rural-urban fringe and the growth of commuter settlements. <p>An example of an urban regeneration project to show the reasons why the area needed regeneration and the main features of the project.</p>			
4) Urban sustainability requires management of resources and transport.	<p>Features of sustainable urban living, including water and energy conservation waste recycling and creating green space.</p> <p>How urban transport strategies are used to reduce traffic congestion.</p>			

Unit 2: The Challenge of Natural Hazards

Key Ideas	Specification Content	😊	😐	😞
1) Natural hazards pose major risks to people and property.	<p>Definition of a natural hazard.</p> <p>Types of natural hazard.</p> <p>Factors affecting hazard risk.</p>			
2) Tectonic hazards (a) Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are the result of physical processes.	<p>Plate tectonics theory.</p> <p>Global distribution of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions and their relationship to plate margins.</p> <p>Physical processes taking place at different types of plate margin (constructive, destructive and conservative) that lead to earthquakes and volcanic activity.</p>			
(b) The effects of, and responses to, a tectonic hazard vary between areas of contrasting levels of wealth.	<p>Primary and secondary effects of a tectonic hazard.</p> <p>Immediate and long-term responses to a tectonic hazard.</p> <p>Use named examples to show how the effects and responses to a tectonic hazard vary between two areas of contrasting levels of wealth. Nepal and Chile</p>			
(c) Management can reduce the effects of a tectonic hazard.	<p>Reasons why people continue to live in areas at risk from a tectonic hazard.</p> <p>How monitoring, prediction, protection and planning can reduce the risks from a tectonic hazard.</p>			
3) Weather hazards (a) Global atmospheric circulation helps to determine patterns of weather and climate.	<p>General atmospheric circulation model: pressure belts and surface winds</p>			
(c) Tropical storms have significant effects on people and the environment.	<p>Primary and secondary effects of tropical storms.</p> <p>Immediate and long-term responses to tropical storms.</p> <p>Use a named example of a tropical storm to show its effects and responses. Typhoon Haiyan</p> <p>How monitoring, prediction, protection and planning can reduce the effects of tropical storms.</p>			
(d) The UK is affected by a number of weather hazards.	<p>An overview of types of weather hazard experienced in the UK.</p>			
(e) Extreme weather events in the UK have impacts on human activity.	<p>An example of a recent extreme weather event in the UK to illustrate: Somerset Levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> causes social, economic and environmental impacts how management strategies can reduce risk. 			

	Evidence that weather is becoming more extreme in the UK.			
<p>(4) Climate change</p> <p>(a) Climate change is the result of natural and human factors, and has a range of effects.</p>	<p>Evidence for climate change from the beginning of the Quaternary period to the present day.</p> <p>Possible causes of climate change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • natural factors – orbital changes, volcanic activity and solar output • human factors – use of fossil fuels, agriculture and deforestation. <p>Overview of the effects of climate change on people and the environment.</p>			
<p>(b) Managing climate change involves both mitigation (reducing causes) and adaptation (responding to change).</p>	<p>Managing climate change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mitigation – alternative energy production, carbon capture, planting trees, international agreements • adaptation – change in agricultural systems, managing water supply, reducing risk from rising sea levels. 			

Unit 3: UK Physical Landscapes- Coasts

Key Ideas	Specification Content	😊	😐	😞
The UK has a range of diverse landscapes.	Know the location of major upland/lowland areas and river systems in the UK.			
The coast is shaped by a number of physical processes.	Describe the different wave types and characteristics.			
	Understand the following coastal processes:			
	Weathering Processes – mechanical and chemical			
	Mass Movement – sliding, slumping and rock falls.			
	Erosion – hydraulic action, abrasion, attrition, solution.			
	Transportation – Longshore Drift			
Distinctive coastal landforms are the result of rock type, structure and physical processes.	Deposition – why sediment is deposited in coastal areas.			
	Explain how geological structure and rock type influence coastal landforms.			
	Characteristics and formation of landforms resulting from erosion : – headlands and bays, wave-cut platforms, cliffs, caves, arches, and stacks.			
	Characteristics and formation of landforms resulting from deposition – beaches, sand dunes, spits and bars.			
Different management strategies can be used to protect coastlines from the effects of physical processes.	Identify the major landforms of erosion and deposition along the Dorset coastline .			
	The costs and benefits of the following management strategies :			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hard engineering – sea walls, rock armour, gabions and groynes. soft engineering – beach nourishment and re-profiling, dune regeneration. managed retreat – coastal realignment 			
	Explain how the coastline at Dawlish Warren has been managed, including:			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the reasons for management the management strategy the resulting effects and conflicts. 			

Unit 4: UK Physical Landscapes- Rivers

Key Ideas	Specification Content	😊	😐	😞
The UK has a range of diverse landscapes.	Know the location of major upland/lowland areas and river systems in the UK.			
The shape of river valleys changes as rivers flow downstream.	The long profile and changing cross profile of a river and its valley.			
	Understand the following fluvial processes: Erosion – hydraulic action, abrasion, attrition, solution, vertical and lateral erosion			
	Transportation – traction, saltation, suspension and solution			
	Deposition – why rivers deposit sediment.			
Distinctive fluvial landforms result from different physical processes.	Characteristics and formation of landforms resulting from erosion – interlocking spurs, waterfalls and gorges			
	Characteristics and formation of landforms resulting from erosion and deposition : – meanders and ox-bow lakes.			
	Characteristics and formation of landforms resulting from deposition – levées, flood plains and estuaries.			
	An example of a river valley in the UK to identify its major landforms of erosion and deposition.			
Different management strategies can be used to protect river landscapes from the effects of flooding.	How physical and human factors affect the flood risk – precipitation, geology, relief and land use. geology, relief and land use.			
	The use of hydrographs to show the relationship between precipitation and discharge.			
	The costs and benefits of the following management strategies : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hard engineering – dams and reservoirs, straightening, embankments, flood relief channels • soft engineering – flood warnings and preparation, flood plain zoning, planting trees and river restoration. 			
	An example of a flood management scheme in the UK to show: Dawlish Warren <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • why the scheme was required • the management strategy • the social, economic and environmental issues. 			

Unit 5: The Living World

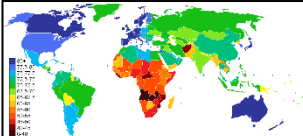
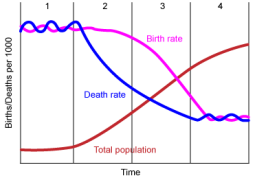



Key Ideas	Students need to be able to:	😊	😐	😞
<i>ECOSYSTEMS exist at a range of scales and involve the interaction between biotic and abiotic components.</i>	<p>Describe a small scale ecosystem in the UK (Wistman's Wood, Dartmoor) to illustrate the following concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Producers Consumers Decomposers Food chain and web Nutrient cycles <p>Understand that components of an ecosystem exist in balance and that changing one element can have a significant impact on the ecosystem as a whole. (e.g. wolves in Yellowstone)</p> <p>Describe the distribution and characteristics of global ecosystems (biomes)</p>			
<i>TROPICAL RAINFORESTS have a range of distinctive characteristics.</i>	<p>Describe the physical characteristics of a tropical rainforest.</p> <p>Understand the interdependence of climate, water, soils, plants, animals and people in a tropical rainforest</p> <p>Give examples of how plants and animals adapt to the physical conditions.</p>			
<i>DEFORESTATION has economic and environmental impacts.</i>	<p>Describe tropical rainforest in the Amazon to illustrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Causes of deforestation – subsistence and commercial farming, logging, road building, mineral extraction, energy development, settlement, population growth Impacts of deforestation – economic development, soil erosion, contribution to climate change. <p>Know about the changing rates of deforestation.</p>			
<i>Tropical rainforests need to be MANAGED to be sustainable.</i>	<p>Understand the value of tropical rainforests to people and the environment.</p> <p>Describe some strategies used to manage the rainforest sustainably – selective logging and replanting, conservation and education, ecotourism and international agreements about the use of tropical hardwoods, debt reduction.</p>			
<i>HOT DESERT ecosystems have a range of distinctive characteristics.</i>	<p>Describe the physical characteristics of a hot desert.</p> <p>Describe the interdependence of climate, water, soils, plants, animals and people.</p> <p>Know how plants and animals adapt to the physical conditions</p>			
<i>Development of hot desert environments creates opportunities and challenges.</i>	<p>A case study of the Thar desert to illustrate the development opportunities in hot desert environments: mineral extraction, energy, farming, tourism</p> <p>Explain the challenges of developing hot desert environments: extreme temperatures, water supply, and inaccessibility.</p> <p>Describe the causes of desertification – climate change, population growth, removal of fuel wood, overgrazing, over-cultivation and soil erosion.</p>			
<i>Areas on the fringe of hot deserts are at risk of desertification.</i>	<p>Describe strategies used to reduce the risk of desertification – water and soil management, tree planting and use of appropriate technology.</p>			

Unit 6: Resource Management

Key Ideas	Specification Content	😊	😐	☹️
1) Food, water and energy are fundamental to human development.	What is the definition of a resource?			
	How does an uneven distribution of food around the world lead to malnourishment and undernutrition?			
	Is there a global imbalance of water supply?			
	What is the pattern of global energy consumption?			
2 (a) The UK faces opportunities and challenges in the provision of food.	How is the demand for food changing in the UK?			
	What is the environmental impact of importing food and is local sourcing the answer?			
	How are the trends of agribusiness and organic produce helping to reduce the UK's dependence on foreign food imports?			
2 (b) The UK faces opportunities and challenges in the provision of water.	What are the demands for water in the UK?			
	Which parts of the UK have a water surplus or deficit?			
	What strategies can be used to save or recycle water?			
	How can water transfer schemes reduce the problem of water stress?			
	What are the factors affecting water quality and pollution management?			
2 (c) The UK faces opportunities and challenges in the provision of energy.	How is the UK's energy demand changing?			
	How and why has the UK's energy mix changed?			
	What are the environmental and economic impacts of energy exploitation in the UK?			
3) Although the demand for water is rising globally, supply is not spread evenly across the world.	Which parts of the world have water surplus and deficit?			
	Why is water consumption increasing?			
	How do the following affect water availability? Climate, geology, pollution, over-abstraction, limited infrastructure and poverty.			
	What are the social, economic and environmental impacts of water insecurity? Including water-borne disease, water pollution, food production, water conflict, etc.			
4) Different strategies are used to increase water supply.	How can the following strategies help to increase water supply? Diverting supplies and increasing storage, dams and reservoirs, water transfers and desalination.			
	What is the Lesotho Highland Water Project? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the advantages and disadvantages of this project? 			

	What is meant by sustainable water supply?			
	How can strategies of water conservation, groundwater management and recycling 'grey' water lead to a sustainable water supply?			
	<p>A case study of a scheme to increase sustainable water supply including; What are the issues? (Wakel River Basin Project)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">How does the scheme work?How successful is the scheme?			

Unit 5: The Changing Economic World

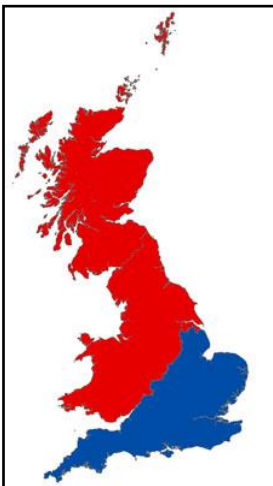
Key Ideas	What we will learn:	😊	😐	😞
<p>1) There are global variations in economic development and quality of life.</p>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different ways of classifying parts of the world according to their level of economic development and quality of life. • Different economic and social measures of development: gross national income (GNI) per head, birth and death rates, infant mortality, life expectancy, people per doctor, literacy rates, access to safe water, Human Development Index (HDI). • Limitations of economic and social measures. • Link between stages of the Demographic Transition Model and the level of development. • Causes of uneven development: physical, economic and historical. • Consequences of uneven development: disparities in wealth and health, international migration. 			
<p>2) Various strategies exist for reducing the global development gap.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of the strategies used to reduce the development gap: investment, industrial development and tourism, aid, using intermediate technology, Fairtrade, debt relief, microfinance loans. • An example of how the growth of tourism in an LIC or NEE helps to reduce the development gap (Jamaica) <div style="text-align: center;">   </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>			

3) Some LICs and NEEs are experiencing rapid economic development which leads to significant social, environmental and cultural change

A case study of one LIC (eg Nigeria) or NEE to illustrate:

- the location and importance of the country, regionally and globally
- the wider political, social, cultural and environmental context within which the country is placed
- the changing industrial structure. The balance between different sectors of the economy. How manufacturing industry can stimulate economic development
- the role of transnational corporations (TNCs) in relation to industrial development. Advantages and disadvantages of TNC(s) to the host country
- the changing political and trading relationships with the wider world
- international aid: types of aid, impacts of aid on the receiving country
- the environmental impacts of economic development
- the effects of economic development on quality of life for the population.

4) Major changes in the economy of the UK have affected, and will continue to affect, employment patterns and regional growth



Economic futures in the UK:

- causes of economic change: de-industrialisation and decline of traditional industrial base, globalisation and government policies moving towards a post-industrial economy: development of information technology, service industries, finance, research, science and business parks
- impacts of industry on the physical environment. An example of how modern industrial development can be more environmentally sustainable
- social and economic changes in the rural landscape in one area of population growth and one area of population decline
- improvements and new developments in road and rail infrastructure, port and airport capacity
- the north-south divide. Strategies used in an attempt to resolve regional differences
- the place of the UK in the wider world. Links through trade, culture, transport, and electronic communication. Economic and political links: the European Union (EU) and Commonwealth

Examination Outline

Assessment objectives

Assessment objectives (AOs) are set by Ofqual and are the same across all GCSE Geography specifications and all exam boards.

The exams will measure how students have achieved the following assessment objectives.

- AO1: Demonstrate knowledge of locations, places, processes, environments and different scales (15%).
- AO2: Demonstrate geographical understanding of: concepts and how they are used in relation to places, environments and processes; the interrelationships between places, environments and processes (25%).
- AO3: Apply knowledge and understanding to interpret, analyse and evaluate geographical information and issues to make judgements (35%, including 10% applied to fieldwork context(s)).
- AO4: Select, adapt and use a variety of skills and techniques to investigate questions and issues and communicate findings (25%, including 5% used to respond to fieldwork data and context(s)).

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment

What's assessed

3.1.1 The challenge of natural hazards, 3.1.2 The living world, 3.1.3 Physical landscapes in the UK, 3.4 Geographical skills

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
- 88 marks (including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology (SPaG))
- 35% of GCSE

Questions

- Section A: answer all questions (33 marks)
- Section B: answer all questions (25 marks)
- Section C: answer any two questions from questions 3, 4 and 5 (30 marks)
- Question types: multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response, extended prose

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment

What's assessed

3.2.1 Urban issues and challenges, 3.2.2 The changing economic world, 3.2.3 The challenge of resource management, 3.4 Geographical skills

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
- 88 marks (including 3 marks for SPaG)
- 35% of GCSE

Questions

- Section A: answer all questions (33 marks)
- Section B: answer all questions (30 marks)
- Section C: answer question 3 and one from questions 4, 5 or 6 (25 marks)
- Question types: multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response, extended prose

Paper 3: Geographical applications

What's assessed

3.3.1 Issue evaluation, 3.3.2 Fieldwork, 3.4 Geographical skills

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
- 76 marks (including 6 marks for SPaG)
- 30% of GCSE
- Pre-release resources booklet made available 12 weeks before Paper 3 exam

Questions

- Section A: answer all questions (37 marks)
- Section B: answer all questions (39 marks)
- Question types: multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response, extended prose