

Preparing for your GCSE geography exam

Resources available to help you revise:

- 🌐 Online textbook and revision site on Moodle – This site contains a link to the online version of the purple textbook sometimes used in lessons. It also contains a bank of past papers plus mark schemes as well as topic revision guides. It takes a minute or so to initially access the page but once you have found it, you can create a bookmark which will allow you to access it straight away in future. Follow the steps below:
 1. Log in to Moodle and search for a course called '**GCSE Materials - online textbook**'. This contains a link which once clicked on takes you to a final link allowing you to access the online textbook. You may need the following password: **qehsgeog**

Note: Once you have reached the actual textbook chapters, you can bookmark this page which will save you going through the steps above in future.

- 🌐 Moodle revision page – contains a web link to Edexcel website which contains the specification and a bank of past papers for you to work through. This course is called '**GCSE Geography Revision Materials - Unit 2**'.
- 🌐 Revision Guide – Most of you purchased one of these back in year 10. If you still haven't bought one or have lost your first copy, we have still some in stock for you to buy at a reduced cost of £6.

Hints and tips:

1. Keep an eye on the time - timing is important. Remember you should be spending a minute on every mark so a 6 marker should only take 6 minutes. If you spend longer than this, you will run out of time and end up rushing the last 8-mark question on the last topic which will mean you could drop at least one grade if not two just by missing out this last question.
2. Learn and refer to examples. Even if the question does not ask for them, doing so will extend or expand the point you are making. Show that you know your examples well by learning key dates or facts and figures.
3. Read the question carefully and make sure you are tailoring your points carefully to fit the question. It would be a good example to circle the command words like 'describe' or 'explain' so you are making a mental note of what is being asked.
4. Always have a go – leave no questions unanswered as you may be able to

The mock exams

You will sit **two** geography exams during the mocks. In the Summer, you will have **three** exams in total. We are only doing two exams during the mocks as we have not covered all of the unit 2 topics yet and so we will use the remaining time in this exam to get you to practice answering some questions from the Unit 3 paper.

Summary:

Paper 1 = Unit 1 Dynamic Planet. Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes covering six topics.

Paper 2 = A combined paper which includes questions from units 2 and 3. Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes. Only three topics from Unit 2 will be examined - Population dynamics',

'Development dilemmas' and 'The challenges of a rural world'. In the Summer exam all six Unit 2 topics will be examined. A selection of Unit 3 questions will also be included in this exam. Unit 3 is an unseen exam and you will be given a booklet of resources and asked to use these to answer a series of questions. If you have revised fully for units 1 and 2, you will just need to make sure you have learned all of the key terms from each topic and looking through previous papers and mark schemes.

How to answer 2/4/6/and 8 mark questions in the exam.

2 mark questions – these will usually require you to define a term or describe a pattern shown on a graph or map. You will need to make a point and then extend it though be careful not to go into any explanation. Be careful not to spend longer than 2 minutes on these questions.

4 mark questions – these will usually require two points which will need to be expanded or four separate points. The command word will either be 'describe' or 'explain'. If you are asked to explain, you should make sure you give reasons for your point. You should only spend 4 minutes on these questions.

6 mark questions - These are level assessed on the overall answer and not the individual points. For a level 3 (5-6 marks) you need to make 2 to 3 expanded points and make good use of keywords, examples, facts and figures. Foundation students will only get 6 mark questions in the 'Rivers' and 'Extreme climates' unit. Spend no more than 6 minutes on each question.

8 mark questions - these will only appear on the higher paper in the Rivers' and 'Extreme climates' sections. An additional 3 marks are also awarded for SPaG (spelling, punctuation and grammar) and so it is important that you write clearly, in paragraphs and make good use of relevant key terms. You will be expected to include 3 well developed points and at least one example though some questions will state "Using examples..." in which case you need to use at least two. You need to make sure you are tailoring your answer to fit the question. Keep re-reading the question.

Case studies to learn

Unit 1 – Dynamic Planet

Topic	Case studies/ examples to learn
Restless Earth	Port-au-Prince, Haiti = LEDC case study and Christchurch earthquake = MEDC case study.
Climate and change	Bangladesh – a low lying country which will be badly affected by climate change. Cairngorms National park – climate change will affect the Ptarmigan bird.
Battle for the biosphere	CITES – An international conservation strategy which has banned the trade of animal products such as ivory and therefore protects Elephants. RAMSAR convention – An International treaty aimed at protecting wetlands. Killum, Cameroon = example of a biosphere reserve. National Parks – Lake District – challenges and solutions.
Water world	Colorado river management scheme – Las Vegas and Phoenix rely on water from the Colorado river but the delta is being starved at the mouth. Coca Cola in Plachimada in the Kerala district of India affected the water <i>quality and quantity</i> The Sri Lankan Pumpkin tanks – an example of a small scale – appropriate technology solution to water shortages. Sand dams – cost effective rain water harvesting used throughout East Africa
River processes and pressures	York flooding – Causes of flooding and examples of hard river engineering The River Skerne in Darlington – an example of a soft management scheme.
Extreme climates	Burkina Faso – A country in the Sahel which is experiencing desertification. Tuareg nomadic tribes of Mali and the Dogon tribes of Mali - unique cultures. The Inupiat tribes of Alaska – unique whaling ceremonies. Iceland’s rotten shark tradition.

Unit 2 – People and the Planet

Topic	Examples/case studies
Population Dynamics	Japan – an example of an ageing population. Nigeria – an example of a youthful population. China One policy – an example of an anti natalist policy introduced in 1979 though they have recently relaxed it due to their ageing population. Singapore – an example of a country who initially adopted an anti-natalist “Two is enough’ campaign but then had to change to a pro-natalist “Have three or more if you can afford it” campaign due to their ageing population.
Development Dilemmas	Malawi – barriers to development Top down development projects – Sadar Sarovar dam, India. You could also use the Three Gorges dam in China (covered in the Water world unit) Bottom up approaches – Sand dams and pumpkin tanks (covered in the ‘Water world’ or ‘Extreme climates’ unit).
The Challenges of a rural world	Lake District National Park – challenges and solutions Sand dams, pumpkin tanks in East Africa – appropriate technology Mobile health – ‘Riders for Health’ is an NGO that provides mobile Healthcare in Africa e.g. In Kenya Kuapa kokoo – A Fairtrade cocoa farmers’ cooperative in Ghana set up as an alternative to free trade allowing farmers a guaranteed price for their cocoa. Micro Finance – Grameen Village phone in Bangladesh. Brockbushes, Corbridge – an example of farm diversification.