

GCSE Geography A (AQA) 9030

Exam Dates:

Physical Geography Paper 1- 22nd May (pm)

Human Geography Paper 2 – 6th June (pm)

Exam Overview:

Unit 1: Physical Geography Paper 1

37.5% of qualification

75 marks

1h 30 minutes

Unit 2: Human Geography Paper 2

37.5% of qualification

84 marks

1h 30 minutes

Controlled Assessment

25%

60 marks

20 hours in class

Guide to Exam Papers:

Paper 1: Exam paper (7 questions, answer only 3) plus insert.

Answer only three questions in total. Use black ink, complete any drawing in pencil and do not write outside of the page border.

Section A

Q1 – Restless Earth (25 marks)

Section B

Q5 – Water on the Land (25 marks)

Q6 – Ice on the Land (25 marks)

Questions will require use of the separate insert that will contain photographs, O.S. map extracts, tabulated data and graphs. Quality of written communication will be assessed in all answers. Questions requiring extended writing will require students to refer to case studies. Questions for 4 or more marks will be marked using levels; basic, clear and detailed.

Paper 2: Exam paper (6 questions, answer only 3) plus insert.

This second paper follows the same format as paper 1.

Section A

Q2 – Changing Urban Environments (28 marks)

Q3 – Changing Rural Environments (28 marks)

Section B

Q6 – Tourism (28 marks)

This second exam has exactly the same style of questions as Paper 1. Students will be required to use the separate insert, also be given credit for use of diagrams and be awarded an additional 9 marks over the paper for SPaG.

Areas of Revision

- Specific case studies for each of the six topics.
- Knowing the definitions of subject specific vocabulary and incorporating them into answers, correctly and in context.
- Describing the formation of landforms, being able to explain their formation and give examples.

Revision Tips

- Make use of the revision calendar you have been provided with and stick to a regular routine, i.e. 20 minutes each night on a particular topic.
- Try to also stick to the same 'time-slot' each evening, i.e. from 6:00-6:30 pm.
- Do start early to ensure that you cover everything thoroughly (the revision calendar suggests 13/2/17).
- Try to avoid distractions when revising, a little music is fine but turn the TV and your phone off.
- Make revision notes and get someone to quiz you periodically. Writing something down improves your chance of remembering it by at least 50%.
- Make sure you have everything you need around you before you begin revising, i.e. class file, paper, stationary, a drink & snack.
- Use your class notes and look through all of the past questions you have completed.
- Use the model answers and write a list of good examination technique, i.e. if you annotate a diagram, the arrows must touch the feature.
- Use the case study booklet you have been given and attempt some of the past questions contained within it.
- Log onto Connect – every lesson for every topic on the course is on there. Rerun the lessons in order to supplement using your notes.
- Practice O.S. map skills. Use the resources contained within the revision folder in the Geography section of Rainford Connect.
- Use past papers to test yourself. Try to complete a full question in 30 minutes. Six years of past exam papers, inserts and mark schemes can be found in the Geography section on Rainford Connect.
- Use revision websites such as BBC Bitesize and S-cool.

In the actual exam

- Remember, on each exam paper you only answer three questions, ignore the other topics you have not studied.
- Try to divide your time equally between the questions, spending around 30 minutes on each.
- Read every question carefully, if a question states '*use figure 12 from the insert and describe . . .*' then make sure you refer to it in your answer.
- Underline the command word in every question. Focus on it and follow what it directs you to do.
- Remember, if a question states 'use your own knowledge' then this means you should be including detail from a case study.
- Try to use key terms in your answers.
- If a question asks you to use a photograph, table of data, a graph or O.S. map extract, ensure that you refer to it directly in your answer.
- When attempting a question requiring 6 – 8 marks, try to picture the mark scheme in your mind. What will the examiner be expecting? Level 1 – basic, Level 2 – clear, Level 3 – detailed.
- If you label anything, make sure the arrows touch!
- When you finish a particular question, count up the total marks (25 on paper 1, 28 on paper 28) to make sure that you haven't missed any part out