Subject content

Living with the physical environment

3.1.1 Section A: The challenge of natural hazards

3.1.2 Section B: The living world

3.1.3 Section C: Physical landscapes in the UK

Challenges in the human environment

3.2.1 Section A: Urban issues and challenges

3.2.2 Section B: The changing economic world

3.2.3 Section C: The challenge of resource management

Geographical applications

3.3.1 Section A: Issue evaluation

3.3.2 Section B: Fieldwork

Geographical skills

3.4 Geographical skills

Assessments

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 )

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

3.1.1 Section A: The challenge of natural hazards

3.1.1.1 Natural hazards – an understanding of hazards and how they affect people.

3.1.1.2 Tectonic hazards – looking into plate tectonics and learning, in detail one tectonic hazard case study and how management of these hazards can greatly reduce impact on people’s lives.

3.1.1.3 Weather hazards – how global atmospheric circulation helps to determine patterns of weather and climate. An understanding of tropical storms (hurricanes, cyclones, typhoons) and how they develop. Impacts of tropical storms and their effects on people and the environment.

3.1.1.4 Climate change – how climate change is the result of natural and human factors, and has a range of effects. Managing climate change involves both mitigation (reducing causes) and adaptation (responding to change).

3.1.2 Section B: The living world

In this section, students are required to study Ecosystems, Tropical rainforests and Hot deserts.

3.1.2.1 Ecosystems - Ecosystems exist at a range of scales and involve the interaction between biotic and abiotic components.

3.1.2.2 Tropical rainforests - Tropical rainforest ecosystems have a range of distinctive characteristics. Deforestation has economic and environmental impacts. Tropical rainforests need to be managed to be sustainable.

3.1.2.3 Hot deserts - Hot desert ecosystems have a range of distinctive characteristics. Development of hot desert environments creates opportunities and challenges. Areas on the fringe of hot deserts are at risk of desertification.

3.1.3 Section C: Physical landscapes in the UK

In this section, students are required to study UK physical landscapes, Coastal landscapes in the UK and River landscapes in the UK.

3.1.3.1 UK physical landscapes - The UK has a range of diverse landscapes, An overview of the location of major upland/lowland areas and river systems.

3.1.3.2 Coastal landscapes in the UK - The coast is shaped by a number of physical processes. Distinctive coastal landforms are the result of rock type, structure and physical processes. Different management strategies can be used to protect coastlines from the effects of physical processes.

3.1.3.3 River landscapes in the UK - The shape of river valleys changes as rivers flow downstream. Distinctive fluvial landforms result from different physical processes. Different management strategies can be used to protect river landscapes from the effects of flooding.

Following Ofqual’s announcement the changes to assessment in summer 2021 for GCSE Geography are:

Fieldwork is not required.

There will be no questions about student’s own fieldwork experience in the exam.

Question 5 will be removed from Section B in 8035/3 Paper 3: Geographical applications. These are questions relating to students' own fieldwork experience (familiar fieldwork). The total time allocation for the 8035/3 paper will reduce from 1 hour 15 minutes to 1 hour.

3.2.1 Section A: Urban issues and challenges

A case study of a major city in an LIC or NEE to illustrate: Rio, Brazil

the location and importance of the city, regionally, nationally and internationally

causes of growth: natural increase and migration

how urban growth has created opportunities:

social: access to services – health and education; access to resources – water supply, energy

economic: how urban industrial areas can be a stimulus for economic development

how urban growth has created challenges:

managing urban growth – slums, squatter settlements

providing clean water, sanitation systems and energy

providing access to services – health and education

reducing unemployment and crime

managing environmental issues – waste disposal, air and water pollution, traffic congestion.

A case study of a major city in the UK to illustrate: Bristol, UK

the location and importance of the city 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 opportunities:

social and economic: cultural mix, recreation and entertainment, employment, integrated transport systems

environmental: urban greening

how urban change has created challenges:

social and economic: urban deprivation, inequalities in housing, education, health and employment

environmental: dereliction, building on brownfield and greenfield sites, waste disposal

the impact of urban sprawl on the rural–urban fringe, and the growth of commuter settlements.

3.2.2 Section B: The changing economic world

There are global variations in economic development and quality of life.

Various strategies exist for reducing the global development gap.

Some LICs and NEEs are experiencing rapid economic development which leads to significant social, environmental and cultural change - A case study of one LIC or NEE - Nigeria

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

3.2.3 Section C: The challenge of resource management

Assessment Overview

Paper 1:

Living with the physical environment

Paper 2:

Challenges in the human environment

Paper 3:

Geographical applications

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

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

What's assessed

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3.3.2 Fieldwork

3.4 Geographical skills

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Useful websites:

http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-a-9030 - for access to the AQA spec, past papers and mark schemes

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/

http://www.geography.org.uk/projects/ks4ict/qcasubjectcriteria/