

What to do... AQA GCSE (1-9) Geography

Paper Number	Length (minutes)	Marks	GCSE Weighting	Questions and Timings (Mins)
Physical (1)	90 mins	88 (3 SPaG)	35%	<p>Section A – Challenge of Natural Hazards (30) <i>Answer all Question 1</i></p> <p>Section B – The Living World (30) <i>Answer all Question 2 (chosen environment is cold)</i></p> <p>Section C – UK Physical Landscapes (30) <i>Answer Questions 3 (Coasts) & 4 (Rivers)</i></p>
Human (2)	90 mins	88 (3 SPaG)	35%	<p>Section A – Urban Issues and Challenges (30) <i>Answer all Question 1</i></p> <p>Section B – The Changing Economic World (30) <i>Answer all Question 2</i></p> <p>Section C – Challenge of Resource Management (30) <i>Answer all Question 3 and Select Food, Water or Energy</i></p>
Geographical Applications (3)	75 mins	76 (6 SPaG)	30%	<p>Section A – Issue Evaluation (37.5) <i>Answer all Questions</i></p> <p>Section B – Fieldwork (37.5) <i>Answer all Questions</i></p>

General information

- Attempt every question
- Use the resources with the questions and when asked to use a figure refer to it in the text.
- Be accurate and accumulate marks: 1 minute per mark

Answering questions

- Look through the questions that you will be answering in the paper BEFORE starting to write
- When you are asked to use a figure you must reference the figure in the text to gain marks. E.g. In Figure 1...
- You do NOT need to answer the questions in any particular order. Case study questions have the most marks allocated so these could be completed first
- You should spend 30 seconds planning the 6 and 9 mark questions before starting
- Circle any plurals in the exam questions. This will help you consider if you need to include more than one factor
- The command word, 'evaluate' requires you to write about the pros and cons of a factor / strategy etc

Describing a map

When describing a distribution (or how something is spread out) on a map, it is important that you use map. The following formula will help:

G – General pattern

E – Example place names and direction (that support the pattern)

N – Numbers (if possible – see key)

E – Exceptions / anomalies (give anything that stands out as being different to the overall pattern)

Describing a graph

When describing a graph it is important that you interpret what it shows. The following formula will help:

G – General trend (give the overall pattern / relationship / trend / rate of change e.g. increases steeply)

C – Calculations (give the range, average, % increase / decrease)

S – Specific points (pick out some key details from the graph)

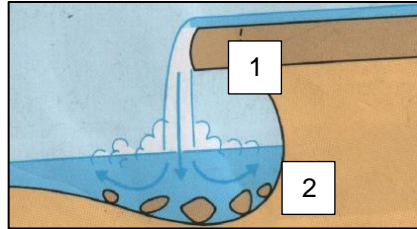
E – Exceptions / anomalies (give anything that stands out as being different)

Labelling a photograph

When labelling a photo, the arrows must touch the feature and be drawn with a ruler so they are straight.

Drawing a diagram

- Diagrams must be linked to the text through numbered points when required (see below)
- If the question states 'use the scale provided', draw it to scale
- You may use diagrams to support your answer when explaining the formation of coastal or river landforms



1. An overhang forms as hard rock overlays soft rock and the soft rock is eroded faster leaving an overhang
2. Hydraulic action further erodes the plunge pool, when the overhang collapses the rate of abrasion increases

Describing an image

When describing an image, it is important that you fully use and interpret it. The following formula will help:

I – Identify (what is the big picture?)

D – Describe (what is happening?)

E – Explain (why might this be happening?)

L – Locate (use background, foreground, centre, left, right to locate specific features of the image)



The image shows a well in which local people are collecting water. This is also occurring in the background of the image. The stand pipe is being used to fill two buckets full of water. This might be the local water source, with the water being transported back for cooking and cleaning.

Explaining

For any question that asks you to explain, make a point and then develop that point by writing 'this means that...'

E.g. the clean provision of water **means** people will be healthier. **This means** that adults will be able to go to work and earn a wage. **This will result in** a family being able to pay for education for their family **which will mean** they will be able to get a well-paid job and **therefore** break the poverty cycle.

Case study questions (6 / 9 marks)

- Case studies can be used in any question that is appropriate
- Always state what the case study is and provide specific detail throughout (if the examiner covered the name of the case study, could they tell what it was?)
- When providing a discussion in 9 mark exam questions you could use words such as: However, conversely, on the other hand to introduce the opposite point / argument
- The following structure may help, but will need to be adapted for different questions:
 - My case study is...
 - Firstly...this means that...therefore
 - Secondly...this means that...therefore
 - Thirdly...this means that...therefore
 - Overall...