

## GCSE Geography topic overview

### Exam 1: Physical Environment

Topic	Overview of content
Changing landscapes of the UK	<p>What are the characteristics of sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks?</p> <p>What rocks make up the UK?</p> <p>What processes shape the rocks of the UK?</p> <p>How do humans use and shape the UK landscape?</p>
Coastal landscapes	<p>What is a coastline?</p> <p>How do the processes of weathering, erosion, transportation and deposition shape the coastline?</p> <p>What coastal landforms are created by erosion?</p> <p>What coastal landforms are created by deposition?</p> <p>How do humans use the coastline?</p> <p>How do people manage the threats from coastal erosion?</p>
River landscapes	<p>What is a drainage basin?</p> <p>How do the processes of weathering, erosion, transportation and deposition shape rivers?</p> <p>How do river characteristics change from the source to the mouth of a river?</p> <p>How does weather and climate influence rivers?</p> <p>What river landforms are created by erosion?</p> <p>What river landforms are created by deposition?</p> <p>How do humans use rivers?</p> <p>How do people manage the threats from river flooding?</p>
Weather hazards and climate change	<p>How do the global atmospheric and oceanic heat circulation systems work?</p> <p>How has the climate varied on Earth in the past?</p> <p>What are the natural causes of climate change?</p> <p>What are the causes and effects of global warming?</p> <p>What determines the climate of different parts of the UK?</p> <p>What are the causes and effects of tropical cyclones?</p> <p>What impact did Hurricane Sandy have on New York in the USA in 2012?</p> <p>What impact did Typhoon Haiyan have on the Philippines in 2013?</p> <p>What are the causes and effects of drought?</p> <p>What impact has drought had on California in the USA?</p> <p>What impact has drought had on Ethiopia?</p>
Ecosystems, biodiversity and management	<p>What is an ecosystem?</p> <p>What are the characteristics of the major world biomes?</p> <p>Why are biomes important to people?</p> <p>What are the characteristics of the UK terrestrial and marine ecosystems?</p> <p>What are the characteristics of tropical rainforests?</p> <p>How can people manage the threats to tropical rainforests including those found in the Amazon and Madagascar?</p> <p>What are the characteristics of deciduous woodlands?</p> <p>How can people manage the threats to deciduous woodlands including those found in the New Forest?</p>

## Exam 2: Human Environment

Topic	Overview of content
Changing cities	<p>What is an urban environment?</p> <p>How and why do urbanisation rates vary across the UK?</p> <p>How and why do urbanisation rates vary across the world?</p> <p>What is Birmingham like?</p> <p>How is Birmingham's population changing?</p> <p>How is the economy of Birmingham changing?</p> <p>How is Birmingham trying to address differences in quality of life across the city?</p> <p>What is Mexico City like?</p> <p>How is the population of Mexico City changing?</p> <p>How is the economy of Mexico City changing?</p> <p>How is Mexico City trying to address differences in quality of life across the city?</p>
Global development	<p>What is global development?</p> <p>What factors determine the level of development of a country?</p> <p>How do we measure global development?</p> <p>How and why does the level of development vary across the world?</p> <p>How and why does the level of development vary across the UK?</p> <p>What are the impacts of uneven development?</p> <p>What strategies can be used to address uneven development?</p> <p>What is India like?</p> <p>How and why does the level of development vary across the India?</p> <p>How is the population of India changing?</p> <p>How is the economy of India changing?</p> <p>How are India's geopolitical relationships shaping the country?</p> <p>How is technology helping India to develop?</p> <p>What are the impacts of rapid development In India?</p>
Resource management	<p>What resources do people use?</p> <p>How does the exploitation of resources damage the environment?</p> <p>Where are the major resources in the UK?</p> <p>Where are the major resources of the world?</p> <p>What renewable energy resources are people using and developing?</p> <p>What non-renewable energy resources are people using and developing?</p> <p>What are the impacts of the use of different energy resources?</p> <p>What are the views of different stakeholders on the use of energy resources?</p> <p>How is China attempting to meet increasing energy demand in a sustainable way?</p> <p>How is Germany attempting to meet increasing energy demand in a sustainable way?</p>

### Exam 3: Geographical skills and UK Challenges

Topic	Overview of content
Investigating coastal environments	What questions can be investigated in a coastal investigation? What methods of fieldwork can be used to investigate a coastal environment? What methods of secondary data can be used to investigate a coastal environment? What methods can be used to present and analyse data collected in an investigation? What conclusions can be drawn from a coastal investigation? How could a coastal investigation be improved?
Investigating Urban environments	What questions can be investigated in an urban investigation? What methods of fieldwork can be used to investigate an urban environment? What methods of secondary data can be used to investigate an urban environment? What methods can be used to present and analyse data collected in an investigation? What conclusions can be drawn from an urban investigation? How could an urban investigation be improved?
UK consumption and environmental challenges	How and why the UK population growing? What challenges does a growing population bring to the UK? Why is there pressure on UK ecosystems? How can sustainable transport schemes improve urban living?
UK population and economic challenges	How are the trends in UK migration statistics? What are the views of different stakeholders on migration? What the advantages and disadvantages of using greenfield and brownfield sites for housing development? How is the UK trying to address the issues of a two-speed economy?
UK landscape challenges	What is a national park? How are national parks used to protect areas of the UK? How is the UK attempting to manage flood risk?
UK climate change challenges	How is the UK likely to change as a result of climate change? How could the UK respond to climate change?