

The AQA GCSE Geography course – a breakdown of components.

The AQA Geography GCSE comprises of three Human topics, three Physical topics, a fieldwork trip, and a pre-release ‘decision making exercise’. There are 3 exams (papers) at the end of year 11. In terms of teaching we try to alternate between Physical and Human topics as much as possible. The fieldwork trip happens at the end of Year 10, and the pre-release materials are available in the March of Year 11. The below tables outline what each of the three final papers cover:

PAPER 1 Living with the PHYSICAL Environment Topics:		Marks		
Exam Time: 1 ½ hrs 88 marks in total Including 3 marks for SPaG (Spelling, punctuation & grammar) 35% of GCSE mark Question styles: Multiple choice; Short answers; calculations; open response; extended written argument with evidenced point & informed conclusions.	Section A Question 1: Challenge of NATURAL HAZARDS	0	1	
	1) Natural Hazards 2) Tectonic Hazards (Eg HIC & LIC contrasting Effects & Responses) 3) Weather Hazards a) Tropical Storms (Eg Effects & Responses) b) UK Extreme Weather (Eg Cause, Impact & Management) c) Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33 marks • Answer all questions. • Last question (9) is 9 marks plus 3 marks for SPaG. 		
	Section B Question 2: LIVING WORLD	0	2	
	1) Ecosystems (Eg Small scale UK ecosystem) 2) Tropical Rainforests (CS Causes of deforestation, Impacts & Issues) 3) Hot Deserts (CS uses of the desert/ desertification) 4) Cold Environments You are not studying this	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 marks (9 marks for Cold Env) • Answer all questions. 		
	Section C Questions 3-5: Physical LANDSCAPES in the UK			
	Qu 3) UK Coastal Landscapes (Eg x2 Landform & management)	0	3	
	Qu 4) UK River Landscapes (Eg x2 Landform & management)	0	4	
	Qu 5) UK Glacial Landscapes <i>Don't do!</i> 😊			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 marks (15 each) • ONLY Question 3 & 4 		

PAPER 2 Challenges in the HUMAN Environment Topics:		Marks		
Exam Time: 1 ½ hrs 88 marks in total Including 3 marks for SPaG (Spelling, punctuation and grammar) 35% of GCSE mark Question styles: Multiple choice; short-structured answers; cloze exercises, photo interpretation/ description, interpretation of maps on different scales, data responses, longer extended writing.	Section A Question 1: URBAN Issues & Challenges	0	1	
	1) Urban World 2) Urban growth in LIC City (CS: RiO Causes, opportunities & challenges. Eg Planning) 3) Urban Change in UK (CS: Importance, migration, opportunities & challenges. Eg Regeneration) 4) Urban Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33 marks • Answer all questions. • Last question (8) is 9 marks plus 3 marks for SPaG. 		
	Section B Question 2: Changing ECONOMIC world	0	2	
	1) Global development gap 2) Reducing the global development gap (Eg Growth in tourism) 3) NEE Rapid Economic development (CS India: social, environ & culture) 4) UK Economic Futures (Eg Industrial sustainability)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 marks • Answer all questions. 		
	Section C Questions 3-5: Challenge of RESOURCE MANAGEMENT			
	Qu 3) Resource Management (14 marks)	0	3	
	Qu 4) Food <i>Don't do!</i> 😊			
	Qu 5) Water (11 marks Eg Large Scale Water Transfer Scheme. Eg LIC/NEE local scheme to increase water supply sustainably)	0	5	
	Qu 6) Energy <i>Don't do!</i> 😊			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 marks • Answer ONLY Question 3 & 5 		

PAPER 3 Geographical Applications:		Marks
Exam Time: 1 ¼ hrs 76 marks in total Including 6 marks for SPaG (Spelling, punctuation and grammar) 30% of GCSE marks	Section A: Issue Evaluation on Pre-Release material Questions based on pre-released material (12 wks before exam). Topics on any of the compulsory sections of Paper 1 & 2. Critical thinking & problem solving & Geographical skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 37 marks • Answer all questions. • Last question is 9 marks plus 3 marks for SPaG.
	Section B: Fieldwork on 2 compulsory human & physical topics (15% of final grade). Fieldwork to include the Enquiry process: 1) Identifying suitable question; 2) Select, measure & record data; 3) Process & Present data; 4) Describe, analyse & explain results; 5) Reach conclusions; 6) Evaluate geographical enquiry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 39 marks • Answer all questions. • Last question is 9 marks plus 3 marks for SPaG.

This year's Year 10 cohort (2018-19) have already studied 2 of the 6 GCSE topics; 'The Changing Economic World' (Human), and the majority of 'The Living World' (Physical) – they will complete the last part of 'The Living World' at the start of Year 10 before moving on to 'The Challenges of Resource Management' (Human), 'Physical Landscapes in the UK' (Physical), and 'Urban Challenges' (Human). The year 10's will go on a fieldtrip at in the summer term, usually for two days (not overnight). In year 11 they will complete the course with the final topic; 'The Challenges of Natural Hazards' (Physical), they will prepare for the fieldwork and skills exam, and study the pre-release materials (available from March) alongside revision of all topics before the three Geography Exams take place.

This year's Year 11 cohort (2018-19) have completed the three physical Geography topics (see breakdown above), attended their two day Fieldwork course (in Dorking, Surrey) and done some preparation for the fieldwork and skills paper (paper 3). In year 11 they will complete the three remaining Human Topics; 'The Changing Economic World', 'Urban Challenges', and 'The Challenge of Resource Management' (with a focus on water). In March of year 11 the pre-release paper will be available, this is a decision making exercise also examined in paper 3. The majority of the last part of year 11 focuses on Revision, and exam technique.