

Preparing for the examination

The following pages provide you with some ideas about revision. They are not the only way to revise but they may provide some ideas and templates for your revision.

Hint

GIS: A system that captures, stores, analyses, manages and displays geographical information.

Unit 1

Most schools do Unit 1 last. There is knowledge to learn on climate change and sustainable development which you can use your fact files for (see Units 2 and 3 below). However, there are also a lot of skills that you need to know. There may also be reference to ICT and geographical enquiry skills. GIS could also be examined. So make sure that you know what it means and how it is used.

Put a tick or a cross in the skills list below to show whether you are confident with that skill.

Graphical skills	First review	Second review
Line graph		
Bar chart		
Histogram		
Compound bar and line		
Flow lines		
Rose/ray diagrams		
Pictograms		
Pie diagrams		
Scattergraphs		
Pyramid graphs		
Triangular graphs		
Choropleth maps		
Isoline maps		
Dispersion graph		
Proportional symbols such as pie diagrams on maps		
Topological diagrams		

Basic skills	First review	Second review
Label and annotate diagrams		
Label and annotate maps		
Label and annotate graphs		
Label and annotate sketches		
Draw sketches		
Use and interpret photographs		
Literacy and use of geographical terminology		

Cartographic skills	First review	Second review
Atlas maps		
Recognise and describe distributions and patterns of human features		
Recognise and describe distributions and patterns of physical features		
Sketch maps		
Draw, label/annotate sketch maps		
Understand and interpret sketch maps		
OS maps		
Recognise symbols using a key		
Complete four and six figure references		
Calculate straight line distance		
Calculate winding distances		
Understand direction, using an eight-point compass		
Understand how cross-sections are constructed		
Complete and annotate cross-sections		
Describe patterns of vegetation – woodland		
Describe patterns of land use		
Describe patterns of communication networks		
Describe and understand using evidence from an OS map the site and situation of a settlement		
Describe and understand using evidence the shape of settlements		
Recognise and describe distributions and patterns of human features		
Recognise and describe distributions and patterns of physical features		
Recognise types of human activity such as tourism		
Use maps with photographs		
Use maps with sketches		
Use maps with written directions – be able to follow routes		

Unit 2 and Unit 3

For each unit you will answer questions on two topics, one from Section A and one from Section B (although some schools teach two topics from Section A). Organise your revision into the two topics. For each topic write a list of the knowledge you need to revise. Fill in fact files like the ones provided below to ensure you capture all the relevant facts and figures.

My revision list for tectonic landscapes

	I have organised my notes	I know the information
Distribution of earthquakes and volcanoes		
Plate tectonic theory		
Hotspots		
Characteristic features of convergent plate boundaries		
Characteristic features of divergent plate boundaries		
Characteristic features of conservative plate boundaries		
Mercalli scale		
Richter scale		
Reasons why people continue to live in areas with volcanic activity		
Reasons why people continue to live in areas with earthquake activity		
Causes of volcano or earthquake	See case study fact file	
Effects of volcano or earthquake	See case study fact file	
Prediction and prevention of volcanic eruptions – forecasting, design of buildings and defences, planning and education.	See examples fact file	
Prediction and prevention of earthquakes – forecasting, design of buildings and defences, planning and education.	See examples fact file	

Case studies

For each topic you will need to learn a number of case studies. Why not complete a fact file for each of your case studies? The case studies are very different for each topic but the templates below should be able to cope with the differences. You can copy the examples below.

Topic	Coastal landscapes
Case study title	How the coast is managed
Case study location	Walton-on-the-Naze
Specific facts – include places, dates, times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Groynes built in 1977 – wooden groynes ○ Seawall built in 1977 – concrete seawall ○ Beach replenished 1999 – sand and gravel from Harwich harbour
Explanation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Groynes to stop longshore drift movement from south to north ○ Seawall to protect soft London clay at the bottom of the cliff ○ Beach replenished to provide beach for tourists

Topic	
Case study title	
Case study location	
Specific facts – include places, dates, times	
Explanation	

Examples

You will also need to learn examples for some topics, which require less depth than the case studies. For example, in the rivers section you will need to learn the effects of river flooding. The template below could be used to hold the specific detail you need. You can copy the examples below.

Topic: River landscapes	Title of key idea: Effects of river flooding		
	Location	Effects on people	Effects on the environment
Example 1	Mexico – River Grijalva	300,000 people trapped in their homes	70% of the state of Tabasco was under water
Example 2	India – River Kosi	55 people died	Much of the land was flooded
Example 3	Bolivia 2007	100,000 homeless	Roads to Santa Cruz were blocked by mud slides

Topic:	Title of key idea:		
	Location	Effects on people	Effects on the environment
Example 1			
Example 2			
Example 3			