

Edexcel GCSE Geography B:

Fieldwork Ideas and Contexts for 2011-2012 Tasks

This document provides a list of possible fieldwork and research ideas for the Edexcel B GCSE 2011-2012 Tasks. These are intended as possible examples only - not in anyway a 'must do' type list, nor do they represent 'approved' titles. Centres are free to use the lists as a pick-and-mix, and to modify as they see fit. Some ideas may work well in some contexts / locations; in other instances they may be impractical for instance, due to the size of the cohort. Perhaps 2-3 of the questions / statements provided may be sufficient in terms of range and depth to address the particular Task question. Students should be encouraged to think up their own ideas, whilst supported by teachers, as part of the initial Planning Phase for which there is a suggested time allocation of 5 hours.

In accordance with the guidance on Controlled Assessment, Centres are advised to contextualise and localise the original Task set by Edexcel into something that is manageable and relevant to the Centre/learners/location but still linked to the task. The Edexcel GCSE B Workbook also offers more support in this respect, including linked exercises.

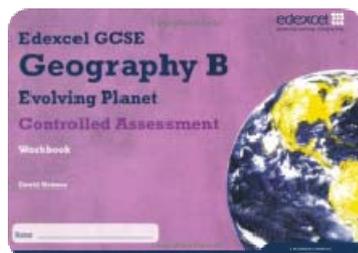
Remember that more support is available from your Controlled Assessment Advisors:

- Geography Subject Advisor - Jon Wolton
- Principal Moderator - David Holmes

on [Ask the Expert](#) or [Edexcel Geography Community Forum](#)



Don't forget the [Controlled Assessment Student Workbook](#):



TOWN/CITY ENVIRONMENTS

Traditional high streets must continue to change to meet the demands of the 21st century.

1. A comparison of the characteristics and nature of two contrasting shopping destinations (including a traditional high street).
2. An assessment of recent changes on the high street in terms of shopping quality / diversity / experience.
3. How and why is the high street at X under threat according to contrasting users? What are the possibilities for positive change?
4. Can a return to buying locally (e.g. in-town farmers markets etc) offer help for some high streets?
5. Are the 'cloning' of our high streets at X (or a comparison) really driving away our customers?
6. Is footfall a reliable measure of the success of different areas of the traditional high street?
7. What makes a traditional high street? The development of a model to describe the various types / identities / characteristics of the 21st century high street.
8. A comparison of retail quality experiences on different parts of the high street.
9. An assessment to which shop types are most attractive to different user groups.
10. Is high street X a 24hr place in terms of land use and activities? Should / could it change it meet the needs of a 21st century?
11. An assessment of high street(s) X. Mapping and modelling a vision for the future to meet the needs of different users.
12. A study of the retail mix in two contrasting shopping environments. Which is the more successful and why?
13. An examination of the non-traditional based functions of the high street (coffee bars, leisure, clubs, pubs). Are they socially equitable?
14. Can the local supermarket be a force for good as well as evil in the context of the traditional high street?
15. All change for shopping? An assessment of how we now do our shopping and the likely impacts on the high street.
16. An assessment of the traffic problems in high street X. To what extent does the issue of parking / access to the shops, present a challenge to the future of the high street?



Urban residents are being encouraged to use a range of strategies to reduce their eco-footprint.

1. A comparison of the facilities and attitudes towards, recycling of two contrasting urban areas (successful vs potential to improve)
2. An analysis of attitudes towards improvements in energy efficiency in urban housing stock from a range of different user groups.
3. A study of patterns of holidays (destinations, modes of travel, frequency etc) from different urban areas.
4. To what extent does income / deprivation affect participation in recycling?
5. To what extent does income / deprivation affect a residents footprint in terms of transport?
6. A study of how different residents could be encouraged to reduce their eco-footprint.
7. A study of the effectiveness (usage, occupancy etc) of park-and-ride schemes in town X.
8. Video / photographic evidence to show how people are being encouraged to adopt greener attitudes.
9. A comparison of two very different housing stocks in terms of energy efficiency
10. Do people of different ages / genders / cultures have different sized eco-footprints in terms of energy / transport / holidays?
11. Should 'carrots' or 'sticks' be used to promote green attitudes? A comparison of different views from different areas.
12. Mapping (GIS?) the ways in which local authorities are encouraging individuals to manage their eco-footprint.
13. An assessment of the different eco-footprint calculators on the web - which should we trust the most?



RURAL/COUNTRYSIDE ENVIRINMENTS

The prosperity of a rural area depends on the success of a range of initiatives.

1. An examination of how two different rural areas / attractions have succeeded in attracting new tourists.
2. Why do people go there? An assessment of the 'pull' factors to a particular location or honeypot site.
3. Mapping contrasting sphere of influences for different attractions / rural destinations.
4. Interviews with different stakeholders involved in developing / promoting rural area(s). How successful have they been?
5. Measuring rural prosperity - what indicators should be used according to the views of local residents?
6. An examination of two contrasting initiatives to stimulate rural areas. What has been the outcome?
7. Do initiatives to improve rural areas offer benefits for all. Who are the winners and losers?
8. Making a design plan to improve one aspect of a rural area, e.g. transport.
9. What are the negative aspects of prosperity for different stakeholders.
10. How and why are schemes to improve the prosperity of rural areas different inside and outside the national park.
11. Are visitor numbers and tourist spending a reliable indicator of the success of rural initiatives?
12. Is there a real case for opening a disused railway line / station?
13. A cost-benefit analysis of the traffic management options for village X.
14. Two contrasting studies of farm diversification / valorisation of the countryside.



On balance, tourism has a positive impact on rural areas.

1. An assessment of footpath erosion at two contrasting tourism hotspots / two areas within the same hotspot.
2. Visitor profile surveys (age, catchment / sphere of influence, spend, visit duration, type of stay / accommodation) in different rural areas.
3. The view from different groups. Interviews to establish different opinions of the positive and negative impacts of visitors to an area(s).
4. A study into the impacts of traffic / car parking problems / solutions in contrasting tourism hotspots.
5. Using different environmental quality surveys to assess recreational impact at visitor sites.
6. An examination of how the impact of visitors has changed the retail structure / functions of a rural market town. Has this been a force for good (e.g. positive multiplier) or more of a negative impact?
7. A study of a visitor hotspot / attraction in terms of employment and effects on the economy.
8. A study of the nature and issues of second homes in an area. Identification of the winners and losers.
9. A study into the different types of tourism in different areas and the conflicts which can arise between different users of the same resource.
10. How and why have villages X and Y (inside and outside the National Park) changed over time. Who have been the winners and losers - issues of affordable housing?
11. Using a questionnaire survey to assess attitudes towards visitors / change over time - view from different user groups.
12. A cost-benefit analysis / model of visitor effects in two contrasting sites: honeypot vs remote rural.
13. How and why do visitors to different rural beaches (resort vs remote) vary and what are the implications in terms of traffic etc.
14. Campsite / holiday park externalities - how far do their benefits / extend beyond the boundary of the sites.



RIVER ENVIRONMENTS

Flood management involves a range of solutions, some of which impact on people in different ways.

1. An assessment of contrasting flood management options in different parts of a town.
2. What is the residents perception of proposed / existing solutions - do they really work?
3. A visual impact survey of two different approaches to flood management, e.g. hard engineering vs sustainable.
4. Creating a flood risk map (based on land-use) for different parts of a town.
5. Who likes what? Attitudes towards different / contrasting river flood management schemes by different users (visitors, local residents etc)
6. Cost benefit analysis of contrasting flood management schemes and solutions.
7. Development of a conflict matrix for different types river flood management.
8. An examination of the various stakeholders involved in flood management. What are the views on the past, present and future?
9. To what extent are the flood management strategies in areas X + Y really long, term sustainable solutions?
10. Which flood management solution(s) has the lowest environmental impact?
11. An examination of how different flood schemes can have a variety of different impacts on people.
12. Do low impact schemes provide practical solutions for some areas?
13. Estimation of potential bankfull flood discharge in area X.
14. Researching the flood regime of River X - how often do 'big' events occur?



Stretches of a river can be very different in terms of their processes and landforms.

1. Using bedload (size) and velocity a way of investigating river sediment transport using the Hjulstrom Curve.
2. Using analysis of bedload roundedness (Power's/Krumbein/Zingg scales and Cailleux index) to infer erosional processes (i.e. attrition)
3. Research bedload size (min size) to infer stream competence.
4. How and why does stream competence vary between different stretches (or meander/straight) of a river.
5. Valley shape (width, slope angle) and a study of changes downstream.
6. To what extent is there a relationship between width of the valley floor and distance from stream source?
7. To what extent does the width:depth ratio of the river channel change with distance from the source.
8. How does the sinuosity of meanders change along the river long profile/at different points downstream?
9. Using Bradshaw's model as a way of predicting downstream change in processes. Does it always work out that way?
10. A study of two different catchments and the exit discharge of their corresponding streams.



COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS

Coastal management involves a range of solutions, some of which impact on people in different ways.

1. A study of contrasting hard and sustainable coastal management approaches at two different reaches / stretches of coast.
2. Who likes what? Attitudes towards different / contrasting coastal management schemes by different users (visitors, local residents etc)
3. Cost-benefit analysis of contrasting coastal management schemes.
4. Development of a conflict matrix for different types of coastal management.
5. How and why does geology influence the choice of coastal management in a particular area?
6. An assessment of land-use, erosion risk and degree of protection.
7. Comparing relative land values against degree of protection in two different areas
8. Evidence for longshore drift at area X. Is this a force for good or evil for coastal managers?
9. An examination of the various stakeholders involved in coastal management. What are the views on the past, present and future?
10. How has the rate of coastal erosion changed in area(s) X? What factors influence this?
11. An assessment of the effectiveness of different approaches to coastal management.
12. Photo / video-based evidence showing coasts most at risk from erosion - what are the possible solutions.
13. Developing a simplified shoreline management plan for area X.
14. In-depth interviews with different coastal stakeholders about the future risks and solutions.



Two stretches of coastline can be very different in terms of their processes and landforms.

1. Using beach / shingle ridge gradient as an indicator of wave type / strength / energy.
2. Using sediment morphology (shape + size) as an indicator of wave strength by looking at sediment characteristics in a beach / shingle ridge cross-section.
3. A study of the observed height differences either side of groynes to demonstrate LSD.
4. A study into the importance geology in controlling concordant and discordant stretches of coast.
5. A study into wave frequency and the resulting types of landforms in two different areas.
6. To what extent does coastal orientation and geology influence landforms?
7. How important is geology in determining cliff height and shape / gradient?
8. How does sediment transportation / transfer vary at two different locations?
9. Changes in the morphology /characteristics of a spit from proximal and distal ends.
10. Using GIS / documentary evidence to determine historic rates of coastal erosion / deposition. A comparison of different locations.
11. How important is the type of coastal management in determining the nature of coastal landforms?
12. An exploration of the possible relationship between beach gradient and size of surface sediments at different places.

