

Geography A: Unit 2 The Natural Environment

What's changed?

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EDEXCEL MODULAR GCSE GEOGRAPHY A (LAST ASSESSMENT IN 2013)				
SPECIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT AT A GLANCE				
Specification overview Unit 2: This unit has two sections, both containing optional topics: Section A – The Physical World, complete one of the following: - Coastal Landscapes - River Landscapes - Glaciated Landscapes - Tectonic Landscapes (total 25 marks) Section B – Environmental Issues, complete one of the following: - A Wasteful World - A Watery World (total 28 marks)				
Assessment Overview 1 hour 15 minute exam • Total of 53 raw marks (3 marks for SPaG) • Jan and June series				
Section	Topic	Key ideas	Detailed content	Page
Section A: The Physical World	Topic 1: Coastal Landscapes	1.1 Coastal processes produce landforms	a. Types of wave: destructive and constructive. b. The impact of weathering, erosion and mass movement on the coast: cliffs and wave-cut platforms, headlands and bays, caves, arches, stacks and stumps. c. The process and impact of longshore drift on the coastline. d. The formation of beaches, spits and bars.	19
		1.2 Coastal landforms are subject to change	a. Differential rates of cliff recession due to factors such as fetch, geology and coastal management. b. The effects of coastal recession on people and the environment. c. Prediction and prevention of the effects of coastal flooding by forecasting, building design, planning and education. d. The types of hard and soft engineering used on the coastline of the UK and the advantages and disadvantages of these techniques.	20
		1.3 Coastal management	a. How the coast is managed in a name location.	20
		2.1 River processes produce distinctive landforms	a. Drainage basin terms: watershed, confluence, tributary, source and mouth. b. The impact of weathering, erosion and mass movement on river landscapes. c. Change in characteristics (width, depth, velocity, discharge and gradient) of a river from its valley from source to mouth. d. The formation of interlocking spurs, waterfalls, meanders, river-cliffs, oxbow lakes, flood plains and levees.	21
	Topic 2: River Landscapes	2.2 Flooding and flood prevention	a. The physical and human causes of river flooding. b. The effects of river flooding on people and the environment. c. Prediction and prevention of the effects of river flooding by forecasting, building design, planning and education. d. The types of hard and soft engineering used to control rivers on the UK and the advantages and disadvantages of these techniques.	22
		2.3 River management	a. How a river is managed in a named location.	22
	Topic 3: Glaciated Landscapes	3.1 The impact of glaciation on river valleys	a. The process of glacial erosion: plucking, abrasion. b. The effect of freeze thaw as the provider of material for abrasion and the formation of moraines. c. Landforms of glaciated uplands: corries, aretes, pyramidal peaks and corrie lakes, U-shaped valleys, truncated spurs, hanging valleys and ribbon lakes. d. The process of deposition. Landforms created by glacial deposition: moraines, drumlins and erratics.	23
		3.2 How people use glaciated landscapes	a. The ways in which people use glacial and glaciated landscapes, including hydroelectric power, leisure and recreation.	23
		3.3 Avalanches and their management	a. The physical and human causes and effects of an avalanche in a named location. b. Prediction and prevention of the effects of avalanches by forecasting, the design of buildings and defences, planning and education.	24
	Topic 4: Tectonic Landscapes	4.1 Location and characteristics of tectonic activity	a. World distribution of earthquakes and volcanoes. b. The reasons why earthquakes and volcanoes occur where they do, through an explanation of plate tectonics and hotspots. c. The characteristic features of convergent, divergent and conservative plate boundaries. d. The measurement of earthquake magnitude (the Mercalli and Richter scales) and diagrams showing characteristics of focus and epicentre.	25
		4.2 Management of the effects of tectonic activity	a. The reasons why people continue to live in areas of volcanic and earthquake activity. b. The causes and effects of a volcanic eruption or an earthquake on people and the environment, in a named location. c. Prediction and prevention of the effects of volcanic eruptions and earthquakes by forecasting, the design of buildings and defences, planning and education.	25
	Section B: Environmental Issues	5.1 Types of waste and its production	a. The differences between low-income countries, (LICs) and high-income countries, (HICs) waste production. b. Greater wealth is a major contributor to increasing waste especially in HICs. c. Different types of domestic waste especially in HICs.	26
		5.2 Recycling and disposal of waste	a. How waste is recycled at a local scale and how recycled material is used. b. The ways in which HICs dispose of different types of waste.	26
		5.3 Sources and uses of energy	a. The advantages and disadvantages of renewable and non-renewable fuels. b. The distribution of energy deficit and energy surplus on a global scale.	27
		5.4 Management of energy usage and waste	a. How energy is being wasted. b. Carbon footprints for countries at different levels of development. c. Possible solutions to energy wastage in the UK on a domestic, local and national scale.	27
Section B: Environmental Issues	Topic 5: A Watery World	6.1 Water consumption and sources	a. The differences between low-income countries, (LICs) and high-income countries, (HICs) water consumption; domestic, agriculture and industry. b. Greater wealth and increasing levels of development are major contributors to increasing water consumption. c. On a local scale we obtain our water from reservoirs, aquifers and rivers. d. Water surplus and deficit on a world scale, related to global rainfall pattern.	28
		6.2 Water supply problems	a. Water supply problems in HICs, including availability, quality, spatial and seasonal variability and loss through broken pipes. b. Water supply problems in LICs, including lack of available 'clean' piped water, water-borne disease and water pollution.	28
		6.3 Management of water usage and resources	a. The management of water usage: i. in HICs, in domestic, industrial and agricultural contexts ii. in LICs, including appropriate technology for water supply in small communities. b. The management of water resources, through the following case studies: i. a dispute between countries, or areas within a country, over water transfer ii. a water management scheme, showing why the scheme was necessary and its effects.	29

EDEXCEL LINEAR GCSE GEOGRAPHY A (FIRST ASSESSMENT IN 2014)				
SPECIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT AT A GLANCE				
Specification overview Unit 2: This unit has two sections, complete all of the following: - Coastal Landscapes - River Landscapes - Tectonic Landscapes (total 45 marks) Section B – Environmental Issues, complete one of the following: - A Wasteful World - A Watery World (total 24 marks)				
Assessment Overview 1 hour 15 minute tiered exam • Total of 69 raw marks (4 marks for SPaG) • June series				
Section	Topic	Key ideas	Detailed content	Page
Section A: The Physical World	Topic 1: Coastal Landscapes	1.1 Coastal processes produce landforms	a. Types of wave: destructive and constructive. b. The impact of weathering, erosion and mass movement on the coast: cliffs and wave-cut platforms, headlands and bays, caves, arches, stacks and stumps. c. The process and impact of longshore drift on the coastline. d. The formation of beaches, spits and bars.	19
		1.2 Coastal landforms are subject to change	a. Differential rates of cliff recession due to factors such as fetch, geology and coastal management. b. The effects of coastal recession on people and the environment. c. Prediction and prevention of the effects of coastal flooding by forecasting, building design, planning and education. d. The types of hard and soft engineering used on the coastline of the UK and the advantages and disadvantages of these techniques.	20
		1.3 Coastal management	a. How the coast is managed in a name location.	20
	Topic 2: River Landscapes	2.1 River processes produce distinctive landforms	a. Drainage basin terms: watershed, confluence, tributary, source and mouth. b. The impact of weathering, erosion and mass movement on river landscapes. c. Change in characteristics (width, depth, velocity, discharge and gradient) of a river from its valley from source to mouth. d. The formation of interlocking spurs, waterfalls, meanders, river-cliffs, oxbow lakes, flood plains and levees.	21
		2.2 Flooding and flood prevention	a. The physical and human causes of river flooding. b. The effects of river flooding on people and the environment. c. Prediction and prevention of the effects of river flooding by forecasting, building design, planning and education. d. The types of hard and soft engineering used to control rivers on the UK and the advantages and disadvantages of these techniques.	22
		2.3 River management	a. How a river is managed in a named location.	22
	Topic 3: Glaciated Landscapes	3.1 The impact of glaciation on river valleys	a. The process of glacial erosion: plucking, abrasion. b. The effect of freeze thaw as the provider of material for abrasion and the formation of moraines. c. Landforms of glaciated uplands: corries, aretes, pyramidal peaks and corrie lakes, U-shaped valleys, truncated spurs, hanging valleys and ribbon lakes. d. The process of deposition. Landforms created by glacial deposition: moraines, drumlins and erratics.	23
		3.2 How people use glaciated landscapes	a. The ways in which people use glacial and glaciated landscapes, including hydroelectric power, leisure and recreation.	23
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	Topic 3: Tectonic Landscapes	3.1 Location and characteristics of tectonic activity	a. World distribution of earthquakes and volcanoes. b. The reasons why earthquakes and volcanoes occur where they do, through an explanation of plate tectonics and hotspots. c. The characteristic features of convergent, divergent and conservative plate boundaries. d. The measurement of earthquake magnitude (the Mercalli and Richter scales) and diagrams showing characteristics of focus and epicentre.	23
		3.2 Management of the effects of tectonic activity	a. The reasons why people continue to live in areas of volcanic and earthquake activity. b. The causes and effects of a volcanic eruption or an earthquake on people and the environment, in a named location. c. Prediction and prevention of the effects of volcanic eruptions and earthquakes by forecasting, the design of buildings and defences, planning and education.	23
	Section B: Environmental Issues	4.1 Types of waste and its production	a. The differences between low-income countries, (LICs) and high-income countries, (HICs) waste production. b. Greater wealth is a major contributor to increasing waste especially in HICs. c. Different types of domestic waste especially in HICs.	24
		4.2 Recycling and disposal of waste	a. How waste is recycled at a local scale and how recycled material is used. b. The ways in which HICs dispose of different types of waste.	24
		4.3 Sources and uses of energy	a. Energy resources can be classified as renewable and non-renewable. Some renewable sources of energy are easier to develop than others. b. The global energy mix of energy consumption. c. The exploitation of energy resources has a varied impact on the environment because of the production of waste and the impact on both the local and global environment.	25
		4.4 Management of energy usage and waste	a. How energy is being wasted. b. Carbon footprints for countries at different levels of development. c. Possible solutions to energy wastage in the UK on a domestic, local and national scale.	25
Section B: Environmental Issues	Topic 5: A Watery World	5.1 Water consumption and sources	a. The differences between the water consumption of low-income countries (LICs) and high-income countries' (HICs) and the differences between domestic, agriculture and industry usage. b. Greater wealth and increasing levels of development are major contributors to increasing water consumption. c. On a local scale we obtain our water from reservoirs, groundwater and rivers. d. Water surplus and deficit on a world scale, related to global rainfall pattern.	26
		5.2 Water supply problems	a. Water supply problems in HICs, including availability, quality, spatial and seasonal variability and loss through broken pipes. b. Water supply problems in LICs, including lack of available 'clean' piped water, water-borne disease and water pollution.	26
		5.3 Management of water usage and resources	a. The management of water usage: i. in HICs, in domestic, industrial and agricultural contexts ii. in LICs, including appropriate technology for water supply in small communities. b. The management of water resources, through the following case studies: i. A dispute between countries, or areas within a country, over water transfer. ii. A water management scheme, showing why the scheme was necessary and its effects.	27