

Geography A: Unit 2 The Natural Environment What's changed?



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 tiered 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	I.1 Coastal processes produce landforms	a. Types of wave: destructive and constructive.	19	
			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.		
		I.2 Coastal landforms are subject to change	c. The process and impact of longshore drift on the coastline.		
			d. The formation of beaches, spits and bars.		
	Topic 2: River Landscapes	I.2 Coastal landforms are subject to change	a. Differential rates of cliff recession due to factors such as fetch, geology and coastal management.	20	
			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.		
		I.3 Coastal management	d. The types of hard and soft engineering used on the coastline of the UK and the advantages and disadvantages of these techniques.		
			a. How the coast is managed in a named location.	20	
			b. The impact of weathering, erosion and mass movement on river landscapes.		
Topic 3: Glaciated Landscapes	Topic 2: River Landscapes	2.1 River processes produce distinctive landforms	a. Drainage basin terms: watershed, confluence, tributary, source and mouth.	21	
			b. The impact of weathering, erosion and mass movement on river landscapes.		
		2.2 Flooding and flood prevention	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.		
		2.3 River management	a. The physical and human causes of river flooding.	22	
			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.		
	Topic 4: Tectonic Landscapes	3.1 The impact of glaciation on river valleys	d. The types of hard and soft engineering used to control rivers on the UK and the advantages and disadvantages of these techniques.		
			a. How a river is managed in a named location.	22	
			b. The impact of freeze thaw as the provider of material for abrasion and the formation of moraines.		
		3.2 How people use glaciated landscapes	c. Landforms of glaciated uplands: corries, arêtes, 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.		
			a. The ways in which people use glacial and glaciated landscapes, including hydroelectric power, leisure and recreation.	23	
Section B: Environmental Issues	Topic 5: A Wasteful World	3.3 Avalanches and their management	b. The physical and human causes and effects of an avalanche in a named location.	24	
			c. Prediction and prevention of the effects of avalanches by forecasting, the design of buildings and defences, planning and education.		
		4.1 Location and characteristics of tectonic activity	a. The world distribution of earthquakes and volcanoes.	25	
			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.		
		4.2 Management of the effects of tectonic activity	d. The measurement of earthquake magnitude (the Mercalli and Richter scales) and diagrams showing characteristics of focus and epicentre.		
			a. The reasons why people continue to live in areas of volcanic and earthquake activity.	25	
			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.		
Topic 6: A Watery World	Topic 4: A Wasteful World	5.1 Types of waste and its production	a. The differences between low-income countries, (LICs) and high-income countries, (HICs) waste production.	26	
			b. Greater wealth is a major contributor to increasing waste especially in HICs.		
			c. Different types of domestic waste especially in HICs.		
		5.2 Recycling and disposal of waste	a. How waste is recycled at a local scale and how recycled material in used.	26	
			b. The ways in which HICs dispose of different types of waste.		
		5.3 Sources and uses of energy	a. The advantages and disadvantages of renewable and non-renewable fuels.	27	
			b. The distribution of energy deficit and energy surplus on a global scale.		
			c. On a local scale we obtain our water from reservoirs, aquifers and rivers.		
		5.4 Management of energy usage and waste	a. How energy is being wasted.	27	
			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.		
Topic 6: A Watery World	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.	28	
			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.		
		6.2 Water supply problems	d. Water surplus and deficit on a world scale, related to global rainfall pattern.		
			Consider the problems associated with water supply in HICs. Imbalance of rainfall and population between north and south in the UK. Seasonal imbalance in rainfall on the Spanish Costas. Victorian water pipes in London.	28	
		6.3 Management of water usage and resources	Consider the problems associated with water supply in LICs. Large proportion of the population in LICs have access to only untreated water; this leads to problems such as disease (typhoid and cholera) and pollution of water courses through resource exploitation.		
			Water management to be studied through a range of examples such as domestic (metering, short flush toilets, hose pipe bans), industrial (new manufacturing techniques, eg steel and recycling) and agricultural (different forms of irrigation).	29	
			Water management to be studied through a range of examples such as appropriate technology in villages in Africa, eg bore holes and recycled sewage water in Kolkata, India.		
		a. The management of water usage:	A case study to show how water transfer can cause conflicts between two or more areas, eg Turkey damming the Euphrates causing tension with Syria and Iraq and disputes over the Colorado River in the USA.		
			b. a water management scheme, showing why the scheme was necessary and its effects.		

EDEXCEL LINEAR GCSE GEOGRAPHY A (FIRST ASSESSMENT IN 2014)					
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 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	I.1 Coastal processes produce landforms	a. Types of wave: destructive and constructive.	19	
			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.		
		I.2 Coastal landforms are subject to change	c. The process and impact of longshore drift on the coastline.		
			d. The formation of beaches, spits and bars.		
	Topic 2: River Landscapes	I.2 Coastal landforms are subject to change	a. Differential rates of cliff recession due to factors such as fetch, geology and coastal management.	20	
			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.		
		I.3 Coastal management	d. The types of hard and soft engineering used on the coastline of the UK and the advantages and disadvantages of these techniques.		
			a. How the coast is managed in a named location.	20	
			b. The impact of weathering, erosion and mass movement on river landscapes.		
Topic 3: Glaciated Landscapes	Topic 2: River Landscapes	2.1 River processes produce distinctive landforms	a. Drainage basin terms: watershed, confluence, tributary, source and mouth.	21	
			b. The impact of weathering, erosion and mass movement on river landscapes.		
		2.2 Flooding and flood prevention	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.		
	Topic 4: Tectonic Landscapes	2.3 River management	a. The physical and human causes of river flooding.	22	
			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.		
		3.1 The impact of glaciation on river valleys	d. The types of hard and soft engineering used to control rivers on the UK and the advantages and disadvantages of these techniques.		
			a. How a river is managed in a named location.	22	
			b. The impact of freeze thaw as the provider of material for abrasion and the formation of moraines.		
Section B: Environmental Issues	Topic 5: A Wasteful World	3.2 How people use glaciated landscapes	c. Landforms of glaciated uplands: corries, arêtes, pyramidal peaks and corrie lakes, U-shaped valleys, truncated spurs, hanging valleys and ribbon lakes.	23	
			d. The process of deposition. Landforms created by glacial deposition: moraines, drumlins and erratics.		
			a. The ways in which people use glacial and glaciated landscapes, including hydroelectric power, leisure and recreation.	23	
		3.3 Avalanches and their management	b. The physical and human causes and effects of an avalanche in a named location.	24	
			c. Prediction and prevention of the effects of avalanches by forecasting, the design of buildings and defences, planning and education.		
	Topic 4: A Wasteful World	4.1 Location and characteristics of tectonic activity	a. The world distribution of earthquakes and volcanoes.	25	
			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.		
		4.2 Management of the effects of tectonic activity	d. The measurement of earthquake magnitude (the Mercalli and Richter scales) and diagrams showing characteristics of focus and epicentre.		
			a. The reasons why people continue to live in areas of volcanic and earthquake activity.	2	