

# A Parent's Guide to GCSE Geography

Exam Board – AQA (8035)



## What can be done at home?

1. Are they revising Geography?
2. Can you test them on their key terms?
3. Discuss their case studies, asking them to evaluate strategies used – open ended conversations
4. Google Classroom: **3eva7p** – Lots of useful resources

Unit 1 – Living with the Physical Environment	Unit 2 – Challenges in the Human Environment	Unit 3 - Geographical Applications
1. The challenge of natural hazards 2. The living world 3. Physical landscapes in the UK 4. Geographical skills	1. Urban issues and challenges 2. The changing economic world 3. The challenge of resource management 4. Geographical skills	1. Issues evaluation (resources given to students a 3 months before their exam) 2. Geographical fieldwork (Highcliff and Reading Fieldwork)
<b>90 minute written exam</b> <i>88 marks (3 for SPAG)</i> <b>35% of total GCSE</b>	<b>90 minute written exam</b> <i>88 marks (3 for SPAG)</i> <b>35% of total GCSE</b>	<b>75 minute written exam</b> <i>76 marks (6 for SPAG)</i> <b>30% of total GCSE</b>
<b>Top Tips:</b> 1 mark a minute. Learn and use key terminology. Draw and annotate diagrams where possible. Link answers to named examples and casestudies.	<b>Top Tips:</b> 1 mark a minute. Use any source information given in answers. Really read the question – What is the examiner asking me to do?	<b>Top Tips:</b> 1 mark a minute Use the resources given in all answers. Remember facts and figures from your fieldwork.

Study **Figure 22**, a table showing information about three coastal management strategies.

**Figure 22**

Coastal management strategy	Cost (£)	Construction	Years before significant maintenance
Sea walls	6 000–10 000 per metre	Continuous	30–50
Groynes	5 000–10 000 each	Every 200 metres	10
Rock armour	1 000–4 000 per metre	Continuous but short distance	10

State which you think is the best option: .....

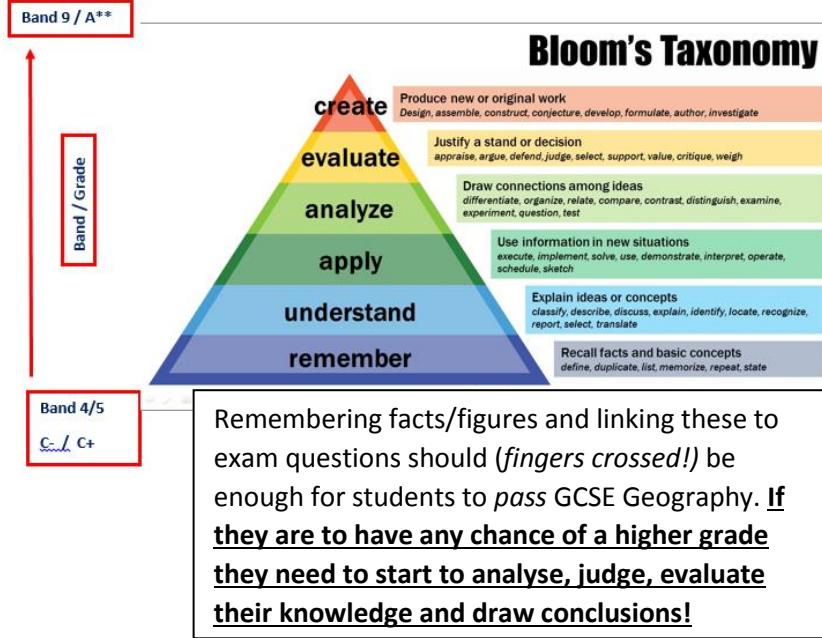
With the help of **Figure 22**, justify your choice.

[6 marks]

## Unit 1 – Physical Landscapes in the UK

The command word in the question is **justify**.

Students need to state what they believe is the best form of coastal management and use the information in the table to support their reasoning.



[https://www.cgbooks.co.uk/Student/books\\_gcse\\_geography](https://www.cgbooks.co.uk/Student/books_gcse_geography) (9-1 grading book)  
GCSE Geography AQA Student Book, Simon Ross, Nick Rowles

5. For a place you have studied, **assess** how successful the management of an urban area has been? (9 marks)

.....

## Unit 2 – Urban issues and challenges

The command word in the question is **assess**.

For a top band in 9 mark questions students need to be able to evaluate and judge their case studies. +/-, for and against, agree/disagree etc

Logging in to PiXL Geography App. - The student should Log using their surname and first initial. - i.e. Joe Blogs will be - BlogsJ

The password has been set as - PASSWORD1234 - (This can be changed)

## Scheduling

1. Do the revision! Allocate time and dates for your revision and stick to it - Eastenders can wait!
2. Little and Often. An hour a night allows your brain to process and archive all the information for long term retrieval - cramming it in the last minute does not
3. The minimum you should be doing is 5 hours a week per subject; now it should be increasing
4. Ramp it up. As you approach the exam you should allocate more time to it!

## Accountability

1. Work Smart - Don't do hours of 'reading' when one hour of synthesis or practice would work better
2. Target Weakness - Find out which areas you struggle with, those you don't like doing, those you avoid. Then spend most of your time on these because if you're struggling it means you need more time
3. Be Honest with Yourself - Mark all your own work harshly. Do not let yourself get away with anything!
4. This is your qualification, earned by you. If your teacher hasn't helped then it's your responsibility to skill yourself up

## Practice

1. Attempt every Past Paper and Past Paper Question
2. Check each answer and mark it harshly!
3. Make notes on what you got wrong and write out the correct answer
4. Come back to the questions and try steps 1 - 3 at least four times

## Synthesis

1. Take, Check and Summarise notes on each and every topic



2. Rewrite the notes to be more concise



3. Turn the notes into 'cheat sheets' on index cards or sticky notes



4. Test your knowledge using the 'cheat sheets'

## Revision Skills

from lessonhacker.com  
Using images from thenounproject.com



## Peers

1. Don't fool yourself - if the person you're working with knows more than you then make sure they are not answering every question for you
2. Peer Marking - Both work on a past paper question and mark each other's work being as harsh as possible. Follow the Practice rules.
3. Hot Seat topics - Find out what topic the other person sucks at and ask them questions about it. Constantly. Get them to do the same for you



What can we do?

As parents you can do a huge amount to help your child prepare for the examination, even if you know nothing about computers!

1. Help Enforce the plan - Assist the student in constructing a realistic revision timetable that they can stick to, and then hold them accountable to sticking to it
2. Make the student evidence their work - get them to show you the sizeable chunk of work they have produced for revision to ensure they are using the time effectively
3. Become an Examiner - Non Specialist teachers often mark exam papers based solely on the mark scheme, by doing this for your child you can force them to be more accurate in their answers

## **Paper 1 – Physical Geography**

Case Study list. Some case studies may differ depending on your teacher

Topic 1 – Natural hazards

<b>Area on spec</b>	<b>Case study</b>
Use named examples to compare how the effects and responses to a tectonic hazard vary between two areas of contrasting levels of wealth.	Christchurch New Zealand 2011 Nepal 2015
Using a named example of a tropical storm explain its effects and assess the responses to these effects.	Typhoon Haiyan
Describe and explain an example of a recent extreme weather event in the UK  Outline its causes, assess the social, economic and environmental impacts and explain to what extent how management strategies can reduce risk.	Boscastle Floods 2004

Topic 2 – Living world

<b>Area on spec</b>	<b>Case study</b>
A case study of a tropical rainforest to illustrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Causes of deforestation – subsistence and commercial farming, logging, road building, mineral extraction, energy development, settlement, population growth</li><li>• Impacts of deforestation – economic development, soil erosion, contribution to climate change.</li></ul>	Malaysia
A case study of a cold environment to illustrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Development opportunities in cold environments: mineral extraction, energy, fishing and tourism</li><li>• Challenges of developing cold environments: extreme temperature, inaccessibility, provision of buildings and infrastructure.</li></ul>	Svalbard Alaska Antarctica

Topic 3 – Physical landscapes of the UK

<b>Area on spec</b>	<b>Example</b>
An example of a section of coastline in the UK to identify its major landforms of erosion and deposition.	Swanage
An example of a coastal management scheme in the UK to show: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The reasons for management</li><li>• The management strategy</li><li>• The resulting effects and conflicts.</li></ul>	Lyme Regis
An example of an upland area in the UK affected by glaciation to identify its major landforms of erosion and deposition.	Cadair Idris
An example of a glaciated upland area in the UK used for tourism to show: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The attractions for tourists</li><li>• Social, economic and environmental impacts of tourism</li><li>• Strategies used to manage the impact of tourism.</li></ul>	Lake District

## Paper 2 – Human Geography

Case Study list. Some case studies may differ depending on your teacher

Topic 4 – Urban issues and challenges

Area on spec	Case study
<p>A case study of a major city in an LIC or NEE to illustrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The location and importance of the city, regionally, nationally and internationally</li> <li>• Causes of growth: natural increase and migration</li> <li>• How urban growth has created opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Social: access to services – health and education; access to resources – water supply, energy</li> <li>○ Economic: how urban industrial areas can be a stimulus for economic development</li> </ul> </li> <li>• How urban growth has created challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Managing urban growth – slums, squatter settlements</li> <li>○ Providing clean water, sanitation systems and energy</li> <li>○ Providing access to services – health and education</li> <li>○ Reducing unemployment and crime</li> <li>○ Managing environmental issues – waste disposal, air and water pollution, traffic congestion.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Rio de Janeiro
<p>An example of how urban planning is improving the quality of life for the urban poor.</p>	Curitiba
<p>A case study of a major city in the UK to illustrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The location and importance of the city in the UK and the wider world</li> <li>• Impacts of national and international migration on the growth and character of the city</li> <li>• How urban change has created opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Social and economic: cultural mix, recreation and entertainment, employment, integrated transport systems</li> <li>○ Environmental: urban greening</li> </ul> </li> <li>• How urban change has created challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Social and economic: urban deprivation, inequalities in housing, education, health and employment</li> <li>○ Environmental: dereliction, building on brownfield and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ greenfield sites, waste disposal</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ The impact of urban sprawl on the rural–urban fringe, and the growth of commuter settlements.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Bristol
<p>An example of an urban regeneration project to show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reasons why the area needed regeneration</li> <li>• The main features of the project.</li> </ul>	Bristol Bracknell

Topic 5 - The changing economic world

Area on spec	Example
<p>An example of how the growth of tourism in an LIC or NEE helps to reduce the development gap.</p>	Jamaica
<p>A case study of one LIC or NEE to illustrate:</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The location and importance of the country, regionally and globally</li> <li>• The wider political, social, cultural and environmental context within which the country is placed</li> <li>• The changing industrial structure. The balance between different sectors of the economy. How manufacturing industry can stimulate economic development</li> <li>• The role of transnational corporations (TNCs) in relation to industrial development. Advantages and disadvantages of TNC(s) to the host country</li> <li>• The changing political and trading relationships with the wider world</li> <li>• International aid: types of aid, impacts of aid on the receiving country</li> <li>• The environmental impacts of economic development</li> <li>• The effects of economic development on quality of life for the population.</li> </ul>	India
Impacts of industry on the physical environment. An example of how modern industrial development can be more environmentally sustainable	Torr Quarry, Somerset

## Topic 6 – The Challenge of resource management.

Area on spec	Example
An example to show how the extraction of a fossil fuel has both advantages and disadvantages.	Natural Gas
An example of a local renewable energy scheme in an LIC or NEE to provide sustainable supplies of energy.	The Chambamontera micro-hydro scheme, Peru.