

TIPS TO SUPPORT YOU WITH YOUR GCSE GEOGRAPHY EXAMS

When you get in the exam room, keep calm but taking a deep breath and focus yourself by reading the information on the front of the exam paper as a reminder.

Here are a few top tips to help you try and maximise your marks:



EXAM TECHNIQUE

- Answer the question being asked (pay careful attention to the command word) – if the question uses the phrase “to what extent.” make sure you address this in your answer e.g. “I agree with this to a large extent etc.”
- In a ‘to what extent question’ where 2 or more things are being evaluated - always finish with a conclusion!
- Use words from the question to ensure you link your answer back to the question
- For the 6 and 9-mark questions take a minute to think and plan – you could write points around the question – think about what information you are going to include (Plan answers to the longer questions using ‘BUGS’)
- Remember one of the 9 marks will have 3 SPAG marks attached – make sure you try and get all these marks! (and don’t forget to use paragraphs in your 9 mark answers!)
- If the question asks you to use a figure you **MUST** use it in your answer e.g. “I can see that from Figure 1...” or “Figure 1 shows that...”
- In an explain question, put 'so therefore' in your sentence to develop your point. Don't just list lots of different things you know, choose something and elaborate it
- Use your case studies even if it doesn't specifically ask for them if it is relevant
- If you don't understand the question, cross out words you don't understand and answer based on what you do
- you don't have to start on the first page! Do your favourite section first if it gives you confidence (but DO NOT miss questions out)

ACCURACY:

- use pencil only when completing graphs / maps so that you can rub it out if necessary!
- If you are asked to calculate a value – check it carefully AND show your working!
- Make sure you give / use units if giving measurements or figures.
- Make sure label lines are touching the feature
- If asked for arrows, ensure you use arrow heads
- Take your calculator into the exam.
- When finished the paper go through it carefully to check all questions have been answered

DON'T LOSE MARKS UNNECESSARILY!

- In each paper – where there are the option sections– make sure you **ONLY** answer the correct question for the optional units you've studied!
- Don't miss questions when reading the paper – **READ** everything!
- Check at the top and underneath each resource to check for questions (these are sometimes easily missed).
- Don't leave **ANY** questions blank – if you are unsure write something – have a go! Keep calm and just write the best answer you can in the circumstances.
- Watch your timings - If you think you may run out of time think about answering the 9 mark questions first
- Do **NOT** write outside of borders
- Don't miss out 9 markers, there are 3 SPaG marks available even if you manage a few lines.
- If it asked you for one reason, don't give two. Same with multiple choice selections - read how many it wants you to shade

UNIT 3 "GEOGRAPHICAL APPLICATIONS" SPECIFIC ADVICE:

- In the pre-release questions make direct reference to the Figures "e.g. As shown in figure 1 etc." – it is important that you are making good use of them.
- Quote facts and figures from resources to back up the points you are making.
- Don't be thrown if they give you additional maps / graphs in the paper itself to use alongside the pre-release – just read the information given carefully.
- If you are asked to assess / evaluate make sure you give both sides / balanced overview but do come to a conclusion (don't just sit on the fence).
- Make sure you give / use units if giving measurements or figures.
- Read everything on the paper carefully for the unfamiliar fieldwork questions – the clues you need will be in the resources given.
- If asked to do calculations – e.g. Interquartile Range – show your workings!
- Make sure you know your fieldwork titles and in the exam read the question carefully are they asking for the physical or human fieldwork
- In the fieldwork exam don't mix up data collection (the way you record / collect data) and data presentation (the way you visually display it – e.g. on graphs/maps)
- Like before do **NOT** leave any questions blank – watch your timing and write something for everything.
- Read the question carefully when it comes to your fieldwork – is the question asking about your physical or your human fieldwork?
- Make sure you don't just say where you went / what you did – the focus is showing your understanding by **explaining** your points.

AND FINALLY:

If you can't remember, make reasonable 'suggestions' but don't leave questions blank

Remember: The worst you can do is write nothing.