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GCSE Geography Advice for our Year 11 Students

Dear Student,

Reflecting on your mock exams

Having now completed your mock exams you will have gone through the important process of reviewing your papers, looking at mark schemes and model answers and noting corrections. Based on this you should now have identified key areas to work on to improve your grades further and we would encourage you to seek advice from your teachers if there is anything you now feel they need further help with. Remember, the most important thing now is not the grade you got but what you have gained from the experience and how you are now going to learn from mistakes and prepare thoroughly for the final exams.

What is already available for you?

- All teaching resources – PowerPoints etc. for whole course available to you all on the GCSE Geography Schoology course www.schoology.com
- Case Study / Examples summary booklet is available on Schoology to download as a .pdf
- Revision Question and Answer cards for all topics (downloadable from Schoology)
- Practice question booklets – you have a Physical Questions booklet (Unit 1) – you can download a Unit 2 (Human Questions booklet) from Schoology.
- Friday GCSE Clinic – lunchtime – staff available in N16
- Afterschool Exam technique revision classes (starting Mon 14th Jan - see revision schedule at end of letter).
- Twitter [@StIvoGeography](https://twitter.com/StIvoGeography) and Instagram ([stivogeography](https://www.instagram.com/stivogeography)) – used to remind you of key ideas / relevant information and from March onwards – revision specific tweets.
- [Facebook](#) (St Ivo Geography Department) – reminder of revision links and from March onwards – revision specific posts.

ONLINE INTERACTIVE RESOURCES:

- BBC Bitesize GCSE Geography AQA <https://www.bbc.com/education/examspecs/zy3ptyc>
- **Educake** – you all have access to the interactive questions to test yourself on different topics using Educake (password is the same as that for science) – for those of you who have forgotten your password please see your teacher or Mr Chambers.

- **GCSEPod** www.gcsepod.com There are some very useful video revision summaries here – do be aware though that some case studies are NOT those we follow so be selective.
- **Geography PiXL app** – you all have access to this app to test you on key ideas if you are looking for an interactive way of revising. You will need to download the app either from <https://geographyapp.pixl.org.uk/> or from the App store.
- **Seneca** – is a free and increasingly popular revision tool which uses an algorithm to identify topic areas you need more revision on to help you focus your revision. You can sign up for a free account here (remember your GCSE exam board is AQA) <https://www.senecalearning.com/>

Other revision resources will be made available on Schoology as they become available and will be advertised in lessons and via our social media accounts (twitter / Instagram / facebook).

Revision Guides

Remember you are now able to buy our bespoke revision guides from the Resources Centre - £3.70 for Unit 1 and Unit 2 bundle (you will be given Unit 3 free of charge when we prepare for that paper). Please remember you can also download the revision guides free of charge from Schoology which means that you can access them for your phones and tablets.

What now?

1. Organise yourself and your notes, anything missing? Have you got the revision guides?
2. Organise a revision timetable for your geography (and plan in treats for yourself – things to look forward to! Getting a healthy balance between revision and time for yourself is important)
3. Get cracking with / continue your revision!
4. Practice past questions to develop exam technique
5. Learn from where you have gone wrong in the past (have a growth mindset) – reflect on the feedback from your mocks.
6. Be **pro-active** and seek help when needed – we WANT to help you – we are here to help you!
7. Take responsibility for your learning – do you still need to finish your low control work. This is now down to YOU it is your responsibility – you only need to ask if help is required.

What revision support is available to you apart from the online materials?

(i) ***After School Revision Programme (Timetable on next page)***

Having made a start on the revision process for your mocks, it is important that you now plan an achievable revision timetable for your final exams. To help you, we are offering weekly afterschool revision sessions starting on Monday's from 14th January focusing on how to apply key ideas and concepts to questions. Example questions, suggested model answers and mark schemes will all be used. A timetable of these sessions with details of dates, topics and staffing is included below. **You could use this to structure your revision at home – following up each revision session with your own revision on that topic.**

Year 11 Geography After School Revision Programme

The Geography Department are running fortnightly exam technique revision sessions to help you work towards your target grades on Monday's after school from February - May.

We would like to strongly encourage as many of you as possible to attend. The onus is on **YOU** to be revising and learning content, however the key to success is then being able to apply this and we will be helping you develop your exam technique in relation to questions during the afterschool sessions.

Opposite is the revision programme setting out details of the date, location and focus for each session.

Date	Topic / Focus	Staff
21 st January (TUES)	Physical Landscapes/Coasts	Cb (N16) and Re (N15)
27 th January (MON)	Rivers	Fh (N16) and We (N17)
3 rd February (MON)	Natural Hazards and Tectonics / Extreme Weather	Cb (N16) and Re (N15)
10 th February (MON)	Climate Change	Yo (N16) and Fh (N19)
24 th February (MON)	Ecosystems & Rainforests	Cb (N16) and Re (N15)
2 nd March (MON)	Deserts & Desertification	Yo (N16) and Fh (N19)
9 th March (MON)	Rapid Urban Growth – Nigeria	Cb (N16) and We (N17)
16 th March (MON)	Rapid Urban Growth - London	Cb (N16) and We (N17)
23 rd March (MON)	Development	Fh (N19)
30 th March (MON)	Rapid Economic Growth – Nigeria	Cb (N16) and Yo (N13)
21 st April (TUES)	The UK's Changing Economy	Yo (N19) and We (N17)
27 th April (MON)	Resource Management – UK	Cb (N16) and Fh (N19)
4 th May (MON)	Water – Global Demand	Yo (N16) and We (N17)
11 th May (MON)	Skills – Unfamiliar / Familiar Fieldwork and Decision-Making Exercise	Cb (N16) and Fh (N19)
Just in time Revision Sessions will also be planned – details of which will be made available nearer the time.		
18th May 2020 - Unit 1 Living with the Physical Environment (am) 1hr 30		
3rd June 2020 – Unit 2 Living with the Human Environment (am) 1hr 30		
11th June 2020 – Geographical Applications paper (am) 1hr 15		

(ii) Geography Homework from January – May

Your homework is of course revision however your teachers will be setting you practice questions homework tasks in addition (initially practice questions for the human – unit 2 exam) and you will be completing practice papers for all units. It is ESSENTIAL that you keep up to date with homework as practicing exam technique is one of the key areas for development for everyone that has become clear from the mock exams. You need to be establishing your own revision schedule.

(iii) Geography Clinics

Remember geography staff are available every Friday lunchtime in N16 the room is open for you to work or revise, alone or in small groups or simply seek help and advice from staff. You can of course seek help from your geography teacher at any time.

Don't forget – it won't be easy... but it WILL be worth it!

We wish you the best of luck with your exams – revise hard and then enjoy the summer!



Mr Chambers - Head of Geography
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 St Ivo School Geography Department

