



STRUCTURE OF THE GCSE GEOGRAPHY EXAM

Our Year 11 students are sitting the AQA specification.
The GCSE exam is made up of 3 components



Students will have a second set of mocks after February half term. For geography students will sit a **Paper 2 (Human) exam paper.**

The breakdown and dates of the exams for the three modules are given below:

- Unit 1 – Living with the Physical Environment – 35% of GCSE 1hr 30 min exam
- Unit 2 – Living with the Human Environment – 35% of GCSE **1hr 15 min exam**
- Unit 3 – Geographical Applications – 30% of GCSE **1hr exam** (this includes some questions based on pre-released materials that will be made available 12 weeks before the Paper 3 exam) .

With regards to optional topics at St Ivo in Unit 1 we are **NOT** doing Cold Environments or Glacial Landscapes in the UK. In Unit 2 our chosen major resource topic is **Water**.

***Please note the exam timings for Papers 2 and 3 are slightly shorter than previous years due to changes made by Ofqual/ AQA for this year's exams only in light of the disruption due to the pandemic).**

Supporting Students:

We are very aware with a period of online learning last year and many students having had some absence due to periods of isolation, some students are concerned about gaps in knowledge or any content they may have missed the formal teaching of.

We will do whatever we can to support students with this, but we also need them to be proactive in seeking help.

As well as using the revision support resources outlined opposite we would encourage students to talk to / email their teachers with any questions they have and they can arrange a time to see them outside of lessons if they wish to. Each class also has a dedicated TEAMS area.

In addition Mr Chambers (HoD) will also be available in N14 (Mr Chambers' office) on Monday lunchtimes for 'Exam drop-ins'. Students from any exam group are welcome to drop in with any queries or if they would like help with regards to revising particular aspects of the content.

Revision Support Resources:

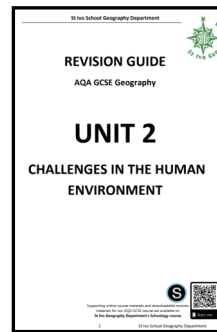
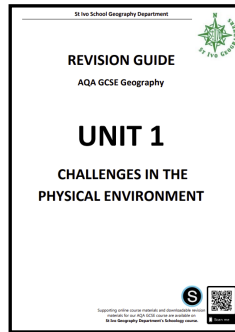
It is essential that students undertake thorough revision and preparation themselves. Whilst we will help students with exam technique, with regards to question and answer structure in after school sessions, **the onus has to be on students to be revising and learning the actual geographical content at home.** There are many resources that they can use to help them:

- **Schoology** (all GCSE Teaching Resources can be found here)– PowerPoints etc. for the whole course written by the department and used in our teaching are available to students on the GCSE Geography Schoology course www.schoology.com – all have access to this - they can see their teacher for the code if any problems. **This should be particularly useful if students are concerned about any gaps in learning / aspects they might have missed during online learning or isolation.** There are also downloadable question/answer revision cards for all topics, case study summaries and Unit 1 / unit 2 question practice booklets for downloading. The case study booklet is a useful accompaniment to revision guides as it focuses on the case studies we use as a department.
- **BBC Bitesize GCSE Geography AQA** <https://www.bbc.com/education/examspecs/zy3ptyc>
- **Period 6 Revision Lessons** - students should be attending these
- **GCSEPod** www.gcsepod.com –audio-visual revision support (all students have accounts).
- **Educake** – all students have an educake online account which means they can self-test themselves to support revision and in particular practice short answer questions.
- **Class TEAM** – each GCSE class has their own Microsoft Team area – resources, advice and messages from staff and HoD are posted here and students should check regular / set the notifications tool for automatic notifications.
- **Twitter** @StIvoGeography and **Instagram** <https://www.instagram.com/stivogeography/> – used to remind students of key ideas / relevant information and from Feb/March onwards – revision specific tweets.
- **Department Facebook (St Ivo School Geography Department)** - reminder of revision links and from March onwards there will be revision specific posts and important reminders.
- **Geography Department website** www.geobytes.org.uk – reminders and links to all revision resources

And of course, students should be using their exercise books!

REVISION GUIDES

The department have published bespoke revision guides for Unit 1 and Unit 2 written by the department to include key content summaries as well as the examples / case studies we are studying as part of the course. These are available for all students to download free of charge from the Revision folder on Schoology (see below) so that they can be used straight away. If students wish to purchase printed copies of the revision guides ready for next year you can purchase these via Parent Mail however electronic copies can be downloaded here: [Unit 1—Physical](#) and [Unit 2—Human](#). **Please note physical copies are printed to order.** Students will be given a free copy of the Unit 3 revision guide as they will be using this in class. **Please note if you purchased these in Year 10 last year they are the same versions so students do not need to buy them again.**



There are of course several commercially produced revision guides available for our course should you prefer (however students should make sure they only revise the topics that we are doing and also stick to our case studies / examples.

Due to exam board changes for this year there will be some aspects of Unit 2 that students will not need to revise - staff will advise students accordingly as to exactly what they need to revise. Following the Year 11 February mock, a full set of Personal Learning Checklists will be shared with students so they are clear exactly what to revise for their final exams.

What can you do as parents/carers?

We have produced an advice sheet for students which we have distributed and [is also available here](#). We will produce an updated one following the February mocks ready for preparation for the final exams.

We fully appreciate that there are huge academic and organisational demands on students in the run up to the exam period. Parent support encouragement and interest can make a huge contribution to student's motivation and most importantly their ability to cope at this.

- Help them to make a revision plan (and make sure that they include some time off within this – having breaks and things to look forward to are important in helping their mental health as well)
- There is a useful video here on effective study skills [How to Study Effectively for School or College \[Top 6 Science-Based Study Skills\] - YouTube](#) which you could share with your son/daughter.
- If possible, try and help ensure that there is a quiet space where students can work without distractions.
- Encourage your son/daughter to attend the fortnightly Period 6 Geography sessions.
- Encourage your son/daughter to balance the format of their revision - some might be with pen and paper some might be using revision video resources or using the web-based resources we have produced as a department
- It is normal for students to fall behind, start to feel overwhelmed or find it difficult to balance work, school and social demands. Helping them to stay positive and talk through these issues as they arise can help. Helping them get things in perspective is important.
- Offer to test them on case study detail etc. (There are flash cards available on our Schoology area with questions and answers! and you can also use the revision guides to test them from)

Above all help to keep them positive and praise their hard work!

There is some useful advice on helping your child revise here: <https://revisionapp.co.uk/gcse-revision-essential-guide-parents/>

TRACKING PROGRESS / HOMEWORK

We will continue to use Go4Schools to update progress grades.

Homework will continue to be set on a regular basis (see homework schedule) - this will alternative between written exam questions to be handed in and multiple choice revision quizzes to be completed online through Educake. This is a really important part of the course helping students to consolidate their understanding. You can track homework progress on Go4Schools - if it is not being completed, we indicate this via a negative point on Go4Schools so that you are aware.

Yr 11 Teaching Staff

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We wish your son/daughter the best of luck with their exams and revision preparation.

The Geography Team.

St Ivo Academy Geography Department

