Revision Pack for: GCSE Geography Edexcel Spec A (Course Code 2GA01)

Exam Board: Edexcel Link to Specification

Past Papers and mark schemes - Available from the Edexcel website here

Examination Format:

3 tiered papers each worth 25%

Unit 1 : Geographical Skills and challenges (1 hour)

Unit 2 : The Natural Environment (1 hr 15 mins)

Unit 3 : The Human Environment (1 hr 15 mins)

Assessment Objectives:

AO1: Recall, select and communicate their knowledge and understanding of places, environments and concepts.

AO2: Apply their knowledge and understanding in familiar and unfamiliar contexts.

AO3: Select and use a variety of skills, techniques and technologies to investigate, analyse and evaluate questions and issues.

What to Revise

Unit 1 (Code 5GA1F/5GA1H) Geographical Skills and challenges (1 hr – Total Marks 54)

You must answer ALL the questions on this paper – you do not get a choice.

Section A Geographical Skills (25 marks)

- OS Map Skills including interpretation of photos
- Graphical skills eg. Bar, line, pie, divided bars
- Sequence of geographical enquiry

Section B Challenges for the Planet (29 marks)

- The causes, impacts and responses to climate change
- Sustainable development – Company Policies.
- Sustainable transport – How can urban transport be better managed?
- Sustainable use of Rainforest – How are rainforests exploited and how can they be better managed.
EXAMPLES OF SECTION B QUESTIONS

1. Explain how the development of more public transport can help improve urban areas (4)
2. What does sustainable mean? Outline what one company has done to make itself more sustainable. (4)
3. Explain how resource extraction can be better managed to reduce damaging impacts in the rainforest (6)
4. Explain how volcanic activity can have an impact on global climate (2)
5. How do cattle contribute to global warming? (2)
6. Explain ONE cause of climate change. (3)
7. Explain how climate change can have negative impacts both on people and on the environment (6)
8. Describe ONE global response to climate change (3)
9. Describe ONE local response to climate change (3)
10. How can transport be managed in urban areas (4)
11. What are the effects of resource extraction on rainforest areas? (4)

When answering always try to give examples.
Unit 2 : (Code 5GA2F/5GA2H)  The Natural Environment. (1 hr 15 mins – Total Marks 69)

Section A (3 x 15marks questions = 45 marks)

Question 1 : Coastal Landscapes

- How to describe cliffs, wave-cut platforms, headlands, caves, arches, stacks and stumps and know how these landforms are created.
- Recognising coastal landform features on maps and in photos
- Longshore drift and constructive/destructive waves
- Describe beaches, spits and bars and know how these features are created.
- Understand the factors that contribute towards erosion and cliff recession.
- Be aware of the impact cliff recession / erosion has on the natural environment and on people
- Define hard and soft engineering. Know the pros and cons associated with different sea defence methods
- Case study of a stretch of coastline that is managed.
- Causes and effects of coastal flooding – case study.

Question 2 : River Landscapes

- Know the key terms / features associated with river drainage basins eg. Watershed, confluence, tributary and be able to recognise these features on maps and in photos.
- Understand how river width, depth, velocity and discharge change from source to mouth.
- Describe and explain the formation of key landform features associated with the upper, middle and lower courses of a river eg. Waterfalls, ox-bow lakes and levees.
- Be able to recognise key landform features on maps and in photos.
- Understand the physical and human factors that cause rivers to flood.
- Know how people and environment can be affected by floods via a case study of a specific flood.
- Define hard and soft engineering. Know the pros and cons associated with different flood defence methods.
- Causes, effects of a specific flood and management of flooding / river control case study.

Question 3 : Tectonic Landscapes

- Understand the world distribution of EQs ans Volcanoes.
- The reasons why EQs and Volcanos are only found in certain areas and the role of plate boundaries in explaining this.
- Know how to draw annotated diagrams of the different boundary types – Convergent, Divergent and Conservative
- Measuring EQ activity (Richter and Mercalli Scales)
- Epicentre / Focus / Liquifaction
- The economic, social and environmental reasons why people live in tectonic zones
- A case study of an EQ – Causes, impacts and possible solutions (Protection/Planning)
Section B : (1x25 marks)

Question 4 : A Wasteful World (THIS IS THE QUESTION YOU MUST DO IN THIS SECTION)

- Know and understand the reasons for the differences in waste produced by HiCs and LICs
- The differences between types of consumer waste, including packaging and electrical goods.
- How waste is disposed – the waste hierarchy, the pros and cons of incineration and landfill.
- Know how we dispose of our waste in MK and how waste is disposed of in Germany
- The advantages and disadvantages of renewable and non-renewable energy.
- How the development of a renewable and a non-renewable energy source can affect the environment.
- How energy is wasted in homes and by business
- Carbon footprint and policies designed to reduce carbon footprint – local, national and international.

EXEMPLARY OF SECTION A QUESTIONS

Question 1 : Coastal Landscapes

1. What are the key characteristics of a destructive wave? (3)
2. What are the key characteristics of a constructive wave? (3)
3. With the aid of an annotated diagram or diagrams, explain how a landform (eg. Stack, bay, spit etc.) is formed. (4)
4. Explain the process of cliff recession (4)
5. Explain how coastal flooding can be predicted and prevented? (4)
6. For a coastal flood you have studied, explain the causes and effects of the flood. (6)
7. For a named stretch of coastline you have studied, outline the methods that are used to manage that coastline (6)
8. What hard engineering methods are used to protect the UK coast? What are their advantages and disadvantages? (6)

Question 2 : River Landscapes

1. Explain how rivers erode the landscape (4)
2. Describe how a river’s characteristics change from source to mouth (4)
3. With the aid of an annotated diagram or diagrams, explain how a landform (eg. Waterfall, ox-bow lake, Levees) is formed. (4)
4. For a flood you have studied explain what were its main causes (4)
5. For a flood you have studied, outline the main effects of the flood (6)
6. Explain how prediction and forecasting can help prevent flooding and flood damage (6)
7. For an area you have studied, outline the flood management methods that have been put in place to control or prevent flooding (6)
Question 3 : Tectonic Landscapes

1. Describe the distribution of EQs and Volcanoes (3)
2. Explain the distribution of EQs and Volcanoes (3)
3. With the aid of an annotated diagram, outline the features of a convergent plate boundary (4)
4. Explain the processes that take place on a divergent plate boundary (4)
5. What is the difference between the Richter Scale and the Mercalli Scale? (3)
6. Using examples, explain why people live in EQ and Volcanic areas (4)
7. For a tectonic event you have studied (Either an EQ OR a Volcanic eruption), explain the causes of the event (3)
8. For a tectonic event you have studied, outline the impact on people and the environment. (4)
9. Describe how people responded to an EQ you have studied. (4)
10. Explain how prediction and prevention can help reduce damage and loss of life in areas that suffer from tectonic hazards (6)

EXAMPLES OF SECTION B QUESTIONS

Q4. A Wasteful World (YOU MUST DO THIS QUESTION)

1. Describe the differences in waste produced by LICs and HICs (4)
2. Account for the differences in waste produced by LICs and HICs (4)
3. Describe the Waste Hierarchy (3)
4. Explain why recycling is seen as a better way of dealing with waste than landfill (4)
5. For a place you have studied, explain how it manages its waste (4)
6. For a European country you have studied, outline how it disposes of its waste (5)
7. What are the advantages and disadvantages associated with different methods of waste disposal? (6)
8. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using oil as a source of energy? (4)
9. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using wind as a source of energy? (4)
10. Explain how energy can be wasted in the home (4)
11. What is a carbon footprint? Why are HIC carbon footprints larger than carbon footprints found in LICs? (6)
12. How can energy waste be tackled at a local level? (4)

REMEMBER, YOU DO NOT DO Q5 FROM SECTION B ON THIS PAPER
Unit 3: (Code SGA3F/SGA3H) The Human Environment. (1 hr 15 mins – Total Marks 69)

Section A (3 x 15 marks questions = 45 marks)

Question 1: Economic Change

- What is meant by primary, secondary and tertiary activity / employment
- The relative importance of these activities in countries in different stages of development
- Why employment in the primary sector has declined in the UK
- Why employment in the secondary sector has declined in the UK
- A Case study in the growth of the secondary sector in one LIC or MIC (China)
- Why the tertiary sector has grown in the UK
- The factors that influence location decisions for factories
- Why economic activities change their locations over time
- The costs / benefits of deindustrialisation in rural areas

Question 2: Settlement Change

- The range of functions settlements perform
- How settlement functions can change through time
- Impact of the landscape / physical factors on settlement
- Depopulation and counterurbanisation and the impact on rural areas
- Landuse in urban areas – Greenfield Vs Brownfield sites
- Reasons for increased demand for housing in the UK
- Views of government, organisations and people about settlement change and development incl Ecotowns
- Reasons for, and consequences of rapid urban growth of urban areas in LICs

Question 3: Population Change

- Global population change and distribution
- Where sparsely and densely populated areas are located and the human and physical factors that influence population density (Case study China and UK)
- Reasons why BRs and DRs vary.
- The DTM
- Policies in one country trying to limit pop growth and policies in another country trying to encourage pop growth
- Interpreting population pyramids (Differences between a LIC and HIC pop pyramids
- The positives and negatives associated with an ageing population, and how an ageing population affects the UK
- The positives and negatives associated with a youthful population
Section B: (1x25 marks)

Question 4: A Moving World (THIS IS THE QUESTION YOU MUST DO IN THIS SECTION)

- Different types of population movement eg. Short and long term migration, forced and voluntary
- An example of migration within the UK (Retired to coast)
- An example of international migration (Retired to Spain, Poles to UK)
- Impact of population movement on host countries and countries of origin
- Factors that encourage migration including new technology and transport
- Push – Pull factors
- Short term migration. Reasons for the increase and examples eg. Medical, sport, workers to UK
- Long term retirement migration to Spain, push-pull factors and consequences

DO NOT DO THE LAST QUESTION, QUESTION 5: A TOURISTS WORLD

EXAMPLES OF SECTION A QUESTIONS

Q1. Economic Change

1. Explain why employment in the primary sector has declined in the UK (4)
2. Explain why employment in the secondary sector has declined in the UK (4)
3. Explain why employment in the tertiary sector has grown in the UK (4)
4. Why has the secondary sector grown in China (4)
5. What have been the positive and negative consequences of the growth in the secondary sector in China (6)
6. What have been the positive and negative consequences of deindustrialisation in the UK (6)
7. Explain how the UK’s ageing population has contributed to the growth of the tertiary sector in the UK (4)

Q2. Settlement Change

1. For an urban area you have studied, outline what has been done to regenerate areas of it (6)
2. For a named rural area, outline the consequences of rural depopulation (4)
3. What is Counter-urbanisation (1). For an area you have studied, outline the pros and cons of counter-urbanisation (4)
4. For a rapidly growing LIC city, explain why people are moving from the countryside to the city. (4)
5. For an LIC city you have studied, explain what problems are caused by rapid expansion of its population (6)
Q3. Population Change

1. What physical and human factors help to explain the distribution of people in the UK (or China) (6)
2. Outline the policies of one country that has sought to decrease its population. What has been the consequences? (6)
3. What are the positive and negative consequences of an ageing population? (6)
4. What are the positive and negative consequences of a youthful population? (6)

EXAMPLES OF SECTION B QUESTIONS

Q4. A Moving World

1. For a migration you have studied, outline the positive impacts migrants can have on the HOST country (4)
2. What are the push and pull factors involved in international retirement migration? (6)
3. Outline the positive and negative consequences of international retirement migration on a host country you have studied (6)
4. For a migrant group who have come to the UK, outline the consequences of their move on the UK? (6)
5. For a migrant group who have come to the UK, outline the impact their move has had on their country of origin (6)

REMEMBER, YOU DO NOT DO Q5 FROM SECTION B ON THIS PAPER
FURTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

Useful Revision websites

1. www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography/
2. www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse/geography
3. www.revisioncentre.co.uk/gcse/geography
4. www.geography.learnontheinternet.co.uk/gcse/revision.html

And the EDEXCEL website (A link to the Specification and Past Papers were given at the beginning of this document

Revision Guidebook

The revision guide below has been written with the course we follow in mind. A workbook can be bought which will help you engage with the revision guide in a more active way - well worth getting.

Revise Edexcel GCSE Geography A Revision Guide, Published by PEARSON £3.99 (ISBN 9781446905340)

Revise Edexcel GCSE Geography A Revision Workbook, Pub by PEARSON £3.99 (ISBN 9781446905357)

If you failed to purchase one through the school, both are available through Amazon