

# Supporting your child: GCSE AQA Geography

## Starting GCSE Geography:

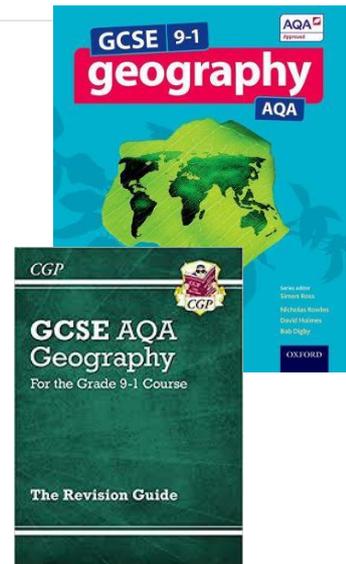
The process of starting GCSEs can be very daunting and overwhelming this guide will aim to help you as the Parent/Career to provide the best support possible for your child.

For GCSE Geography your child will study the AQA Geography Specification. Your child will be given a breakdown of this but additional resources and information can be found here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035>

In class, we are using the following textbook, this is also available to learners through their school Kerboodle account. This means they can access all resources online in the book from home including practice exam questions, revision summaries and keyword glossaries.

If you would like to purchase a revision guide, we recommend the CGP GCSE Geography AQA Revision Guide available on Amazon.



## Assessment:

Three written exams at the end of the course.

### Paper 1 – Physical environment

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

88 marks (including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology (SPaG))

35% of GCSE

### Paper 2 – Human Environment

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

88 marks (including 3 marks (SPaG))

35% of GCSE

### Paper 3 – Geographical Applications

Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes

76 marks (including 6 marks for SPaG)

30% of GCSE

## Topics covered:

Across the three papers, the following topics will be taught.

**Paper 1** – ecosystems, rainforests, hot environments, tectonic hazards and weather hazards, coasts, rivers

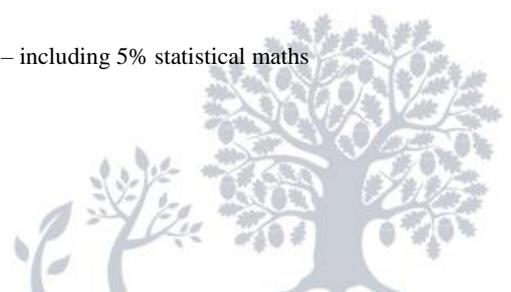
**Paper 2** – Urbanisation, Resource management, changing economic environment

**Paper 3** – Skills, fieldwork and pre-release resource booklet

## Additional skills required:

Fieldwork - 15%

Geographical skills – including 5% statistical maths

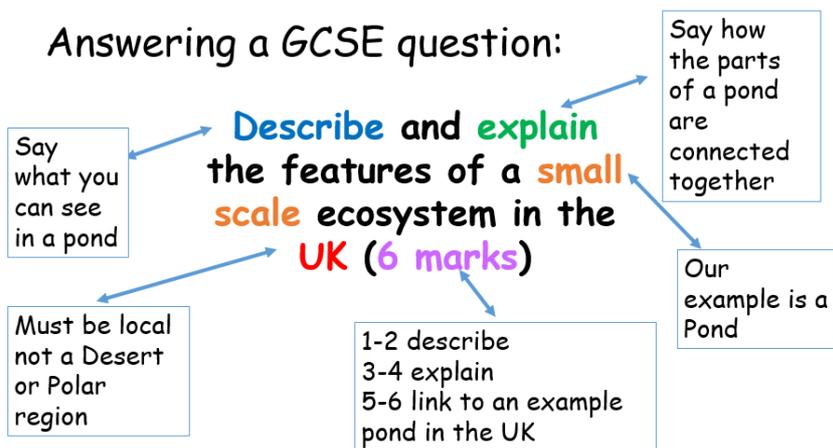


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## Decoding assessment questions

Even if you know the topic inside out, there is still a chance that a Learner may mis-read or misinterpret an assessment question. In class, we have adopted the decoding method to break down an assessment question before attempting to answer it. Using colours and highlighters is a great way to show the different parts of a question. Once the questions are answered, Learners can go back and check they have answered all parts. Encourage your child to practise this in all subject areas.

Answering a GCSE question:



## Keywords, subject specific terminology and Case Studies

It is important that Learners use subject specific terminology to support their written responses. This shows a thorough understanding of the topic area being discussed. AT GCSE Learners can get an additional 12 marks for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar so it is important to learn the spellings of these key terms too.

Case studies are very important at GCSE Geography; Learners must know facts and figures on real life events and places. It is important that these basic facts are learnt and ready to be added to exam answers.

**Learners are given keyword glossaries and case study lists for every topic – try turning them into revision quiz cards for quick recall.**



## Revision, Revision, Revision!

Revision is going to be the key to your child's success at GCSE. You can help them by providing a quiet space away from distractions to help them at home. Revision does not have to be boring but it is about finding the right method for your child. In class we have taught a number of methods from revision cards, mind mapping, note taking methods and interactive resources use ICT. The best way to revise is for 20 minutes at a time and then a short change of activity. Using quizzes and practice exams is great but it is important to know and revisit the content first.

Useful revision links:

GCSE Geography Kerboodle

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/zy3ptyc>

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035/assessment-resources>

<https://www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse/geography>

