



Pearson
Edexcel

GCSE (9-1) Geography A

Building confidence in
geographical language and
key terminology: a student
guide







Contents

Introduction	page 5
Exam Question Language	page 7
Ideas to help you learn geographical language	page 9
Important key terms and definitions	page 11
Answering exam-style questions	page 27
Command words	page 28





Introduction

This guide is designed to support you with some of the requirements for subject language within your GCSE Geography course.

Learning about how to break down command words, exam-style questions, language and key terminology can help you prepare for the different requirements within the examination paper.

Feedback from past exams suggest that some students need further guidance with both interpreting exam question language and knowledge-based questions.

An example of this from a question in 2018 was: 'Explain one reason why areas of igneous rock are usually upland. Not only were candidates expected to know what 'igneous' means, but they were also expected to be able to interpret the word 'upland'.

This guide will cover:

- exam question language
- ideas to help you learn geographical language
- important key terms and their definitions
- approaches to answering exam-style questions.





Exam Question Language

Within exam questions, there are number of words or phrases used by examiners that you need to be aware of.

The table identifies and defines some of the more common language used in exam-style questions.

Affects	To have an influence on.
Benefit	An advantage something will bring.
Cost	A disadvantage something will bring.
Challenges	Barriers/obstacles to something.
Characteristic	A point or feature of something.
Developed	Countries with a stable government and economy, with widespread healthcare and education. Will have a HDI score above 0.7.
Developing	Countries with unstable governments, widespread poverty and a lack of healthcare and education. Will have a HDI score below 0.55.
Distribution	The location or pattern of something.
Economic	Financial or monetary.
Emerging country	A country with a medium/rapid level of development with improving an improving economy. Will have a HDI score between 0.55 and 0.7.
Factor	A reason or issue.
Feature	A quality or characteristic of something.
Impact	The effect on something.
Importance	The fact of being of value.
Influence	Affects or changes something.
Landform	A natural feature of Earth's surface.
Role	The part that somethings plays.
Significance	The fact of being worth of attention.
Social	Public or people.
Strategies	Plans or schemes.





Ideas To Help You Learn Geographical Language

Here are some ideas for you to try at home. Your teacher may also use other ideas to help you.

- **Word walls** – Create a word wall on a page in your exercise book or at home with post-it notes, adding new words as you learn them.
- **Low-stake quizzes** – write quiz questions based on terminology to test yourself. It is important to trigger the short-, medium- and long-term memory, so mix up the terms from different topics.
- **Student speak glossaries** – create your own glossary, either in the back of your exercise book or in a smaller vocabulary exercise book. This will help in creating those quiz questions.
- **Flash cards** – an old favourite that could be used as an alternative glossary of terms. Make these as you go through each topic, building them up as you go along.
- **Distinguish between** – learn to tell the differences between a pair of key terms, such as 'top-down' and 'bottom-up'
- **Multiple choice** – use multiple choice questions to make sure you have the correct definitions for the key terms.





Important Key Terms and Their Definitions

This section identifies key terminology from the specification –you should be able to define these terms and, in some cases, be able to demonstrate an understanding of the process or processes associated with them.

The list is not definitive, and your teacher will make sure that all aspects of the specification are covered; these are just some of the terms you should know and understand in order to be prepared for the examinations.

Paper 1: The Physical Environment

Key term	Understanding the process(es)	Definition
Topic 1: The changing landscapes of the UK – overview		
Agriculture		The practice of arable (crops) and pastoral (animals) farming.
Climatological processes	Y	Climate is a summary of the mean weather conditions, usually based on 30 years of records. Climates are largely determined by physical processes linked to location with respect to land and sea masses, patterns in the general circulation of the atmosphere, latitude, altitude and local geographical feature.
Glacial processes (erosion and deposition)	Y	Physical process of erosion (abrasion and plucking) and deposition that shape glaciated landscapes.
Igneous		Rocks that are created by volcanic activity when magma or lava cools, forming rocks made of crystals that are usually hard e.g. granite and basalt.
Landform		A feature of the Earth's surface.
Landscape		UK upland landscapes (mountains) that are formed of harder, resistant rocks and UK lowland landscapes (hills) formed from younger, sedimentary rocks, which are less resistant.
Lowland / lowland basin		Relatively flatland that is less than 250m above sea level.
Metamorphic		Existing rocks that have been changed by extreme pressure or heat. They are usually comprised of layers or bands of crystals and are very hard e.g. slate (which is compressed shale).
Past tectonic processes	Y	Previous active volcanoes, and plate movements that have caused massive folds and faults in the rocks. These processes have



		helped shape the geology and landscapes today.
Post-glacial river processes	Y	Glacial landscapes modified by mechanical weathering and mass movement (rock falls and soil movement).
Relief		The shape and features of Earth's surface that affect the development of countries.
Sedimentary		Rock formed of small particles that have been eroded, transported, and deposited in layers or from the remains of dead plants and animals e.g. limestone.
Slope processes	Y	The downslope movement of rocks and soil under the influence of gravity that include rock falls, slumping and sliding.
Upland		An area of land that is 250m above sea level.
Weathering processes	Y	The breakdown and decay of rock by natural processes (physical, biological and chemical) acting on rocks, cliffs and valley sides.

Topic 1A: Coastal landscapes and processes		
Abrasion	Y	A type of erosion caused by waves picking up sediment and rubbing them against cliffs.
Attrition	Y	A type of erosion where sediment carried by waves is worn down as they collide with each other, so they become smaller more rounded.
Bars	Y	A ridge of sand or shingle across the entrance of a bay.
Beach nourishment		Also known as recharge, when sand or shingle is added to a beach to make it higher or wider.
Concordant coastline		When a rock type runs parallel to the coastline.
Discordant coastline		Where bands of hard and soft rock lie at right angles to the coastline forming headlands and bays.
Erosion		The action of water wearing away rocks. There are four key erosion processes – hydraulic action, abrasion, solution and attrition.
Fault		A fracture or break in rocks caused by tectonic activity.
Hydraulic action	Y	The sheer force of waves wearing away sea cliffs.
Joint		A vertical crack within a layer of rock formed as rock cools during the metamorphic process.
Longshore drift	Y	The movement of material along the beach transported by wave action.
Managed retreat (realignment)		Allowing the shoreline to change naturally but manage and direct the process.
Mass movement		The movement of material down a slope due to gravity e.g. sliding.
Prevailing wind		Direction in which the wind blows from most frequently.



Saltation	Y	A process where sediment is transported by repeatedly being picked up and dropped as wave energy fluctuates.
Seasonality		Annual recurring periods during the year or specific periods when events occur e.g. coastal flooding.
Sliding	Y	Where material moves rapidly downslope in one go e.g. a landslide.
Slumping	Y	When material moves downslope in a rotational manner along a curved surface.
Solution (erosion)	Y	Slightly acidic/salty water can dissolve some rocks e.g. chalk.
Solution (transport)	Y	Dissolved sediment in the sea is moved by wave action.
Storm frequency		The number of storms that occur in a given period of time.
Suspension	Y	Smaller sediment particles are carried within the wave action.
Traction	Y	Larger sediment is rolled along the sea bed.
Wave-cut platform	Y	A flat area of rock at the bottom of cliffs seen at low tide.
Weathering		The breakdown and decay of rock by natural processes acting on rocks.

Topic 1B: River landscapes and processes		
Abrasion	Y	A type of erosion caused by rivers picking up sediment and rubbing it against the river bed and bank.
Attrition	Y	A type of erosion where sediment carried by rivers are worn down as they collide become rounder.
Channelisation		The deepening and/or straightening of a river to allow it to carry more water.
Discharge		The volume of water flowing in a river at a certain point, measured in cubic metres per second (cumecs).
Erosion		The action of water wearing away rocks. There are four key erosion processes – hydraulic action, abrasion, solution and attrition.
Flood plain zoning		Reduces the risk of flooding by restricting building and development in flood zones.
Flood plains	Y	A flood plain is the flat area of land either side of a river in its lower course.
Hydraulic action	Y	The sheer force of the water hitting the river bed and banks and wearing them away.
Hydrograph		A graph showing changes in a river's discharge and rainfall over time.
Interlocking spurs	Y	An area of higher land jutting out of steep valley sides in a river's upper course.
Mass movement		The movement of material down a slope due to gravity.



Meanders	Y	A bend formed in a river as it winds across the landscape.
Saltation	Y	A process where sediment is transported by repeatedly being picked up and dropped as river energy fluctuates.
Sliding	Y	Where material moves rapidly downslope in one go e.g. a landslide.
Slumping	Y	When material moves downslope in a rotational manner along a curved surface.
Solution (erosion)	Y	Slightly acidic water can dissolve some rocks e.g. limestone.
Solution (transport)	Y	Dissolved sediment in the river is moved by the river flow.
Suspension	Y	Smaller sediment particles are carried within the water flow.
Traction	Y	Larger sediment is rolled along the river bed.
Urbanisation		The increase in the percentage of people living in towns and cities.
Valley profile		When a valley is divided into an upper, middle and lower course.
Velocity		How fast water is flowing.
Washlands		Land next to a river that is deliberately flooded when river levels are high.
Weathering		The breakdown and decay of rock by natural processes acting on rocks valley sides.

Topic 1C: Glaciated upland landscapes and processes		
Abrasion	Y	Type of erosion caused by glaciers as they pick up sediment and rub them against rocks in a valley.
Conservation		Safeguarding against threats/pressure for development.
Crag and tail	Y	A rocky outcrop with a tapering ridge of glacial deposits on one side.
Diurnal variations		The difference between a high temperature and a low temperature that occurs during the same day.
Drumlins	Y	Egg-shaped hills found on the floor of a glaciated valley that gives an indication of ice movement.
Glacial transport	Y	Weathered rocks and sediment are moved within or in the base of the glacier.
Glacial troughs	Y	Also known as a U-shaped valleys, steep-sided, wide and flat-bottomed valleys formed by glacial erosion.
Ground moraine		Rock material (sediment) transported and deposited by glaciers.
Hanging valleys	Y	A tributary valley, high above the main valley floor, with a waterfall.
Karst limestone		A limestone rock that is easily dissolved by chemical weathering forming features such as caves and sinkholes.



Plucking	Y	Glacial erosion where individual rocks are pulled away from the valley floor or sides by ice flow.
Recreation		How people use their leisure time including tourist activities such as mountaineering and rock climbing.
Relict upland glacial landscape		A landscape that has survived from an earlier period.
Renewable energy		A natural source of power that will never run out.
Roche moutonnees	Y	A small hill of resistant rock exposed by ice movement.
Soil movement	Y	The downslope movement of soil under the influence of gravity e.g. slumping.
Terminal moraine		A high ridge running across the valley representing the maximum advance of a glacier.
Tourism		Spending time away from home for pleasure and recreation.
Truncated spurs	Y	A higher area on the straight rocky side of a glaciated valley (previously an interlocking spur).

Topic 2: Weather hazards and climate change – overview		
Crop yield		A measurement of the amount of crops produced.
Enhanced greenhouse effect	Y	The trapping of heat radiation around the Earth by excess greenhouse gases produced through human activity.
Glacial period		A period of time with lower average temperatures causing widespread glaciation.
Global atmospheric circulation	Y	The movement of air within cells controlled by the heating and cooling of Earth.
Interglacial period		A period of time between glaciations with higher average temperatures.
Milankovitch cycles	Y	Natural changes to Earth's orbit that affect how much radiation we receive from the sun.
Quaternary period		The present period of geological time.
Spatial variations		Differences in the distribution or location of something, across a landscape. e.g. rainfall or wealth in a country.
Volcanism	Y	Volcanic eruptions that eject ash and dust into the atmosphere that partially block out solar radiation reducing temperatures.

Topic 2: Weather hazards and climate change – Tropical cyclones		
Economic impact		The financial cost of a tropical cyclone e.g. property damage.
Environmental impact		Damage to the environment caused by a tropical cyclone e.g. nature reserves.
Frequency		The number of times tropical cyclones occur in a year.



Saffir-Simpson scale		Classifies tropical cyclones based on the wind speed generated by the storm.
Social impact		The human cost of a tropical cyclone e.g. loss of life.
Storm surge		A large area of low pressure which allows the level of the sea to rise.
Tropical cyclones	Y	Large rotating storms that form over tropical areas.

Topic 2: Weather hazards and climate change – Drought		
Arid		A region with little or no regular precipitation.
Drought		An extended period of lower than normal rainfall causing water shortages.
Human (cause of drought)	Y	Human activity that causes drought through agriculture or water diversion.
Hydrological (cause of drought)	Y	Refers specifically to the impact of low precipitation on a drainage basin.
Meteorological (cause of drought)	Y	Refers simply to the level of dryness in an area, when an area receives less precipitation than normal.
Vulnerability (to drought)	Y	How prone society is to drought.

Topic 3: Ecosystems, biodiversity and management – overview		
Biome		An ecosystem on a global scale. Put together, the world's biomes make up the biosphere – all living things.
Biosphere		Sphere made up of living things.
Boreal		A biome with warm summers and very cold winters dominated by coniferous trees with needles e.g. central Russia.
Commercial exploitation		When an area such as the tropical rainforest is developed for financial gain e.g. logging and deforestation.
Local factors	Y	When characteristics within a biome can change owing to altitude, soil and humans.
Marine ecosystem		Inshore habitats and offshore ecosystems that are important for fishing, tourism and energy production.
Mineral resource		Naturally occurring substance that is used to make most things.
Temperate		Deciduous woodland ecosystems which has cool summers and mild winters with rain all year e.g. the UK.
Terrestrial ecosystem		Land-based environments.
Tundra		A biome with temperatures below 0°C most of the year with low precipitation e.g. northern Canada and northern Russia.



Topic 3: Ecosystems, biodiversity and management – tropical rainforests		
Abiotic		The non-living parts of an ecosystem.
Biodiversity		The number and variety of living species found in a specific area.
Biotic		The living parts of an ecosystem.
Buttress roots		Large, wide roots found in nutrient-poor soils in the TRF that prevent large trees from falling over.
Commodity value		The values of goods/resources extracted from the TRF.
Ecotourism		Responsible travel to more natural areas that conserves the environment, employs local people and provides education.
Function (of tropical rainforests)		The TRF vegetation absorbs carbon dioxide and releases oxygen, therefore regulating the atmosphere.
Governance		Decisions made by the state or government.
Nutrient cycle (Gersmehl model)	Y	The transfer of nutrients between the three nutrient 'stores': biomass, litter and soil.
Stratification		The five separate layers in the TRF: emergent, canopy, understorey, shrub layer, forest floor.
Sustainable management		Strategies that allow the TRF to be used e.g. ecotourism that support the local economy, without causing damage to the environment for future generations.

Topic 3: Ecosystem, biodiversity and management – deciduous woodlands		
Food web		The feeding relationship between organisms in an ecosystem.
Function (of deciduous woodlands)		Deciduous woodlands vegetation absorbs carbon dioxide and releases oxygen, therefore regulating the atmosphere.
Hibernation		The sleep of creatures during winter to conserve energy.
Migration		The process of species changing their place of residence.
Nutrient cycle (Gersmehl model)	Y	The transfer of nutrients between the three nutrient 'stores': biomass, litter and soil.
Timber extraction		Deforestation for timber used for furniture, construction and fuel.
Water conservation		Strategies used to sustainable manage fresh water supplies.



Paper 2: The Human Environment

	Understanding the process(es)	Definition
Topic 4: Changing cities – overview		
Urbanisation	Y	The increase in the percentage of people living in towns and cities.
Degree of urbanisation		The proportion/extent of people living in urban areas compared to rural areas.
Rate of urbanisation		How fast urban growth is taking place in a specific country.

Topic 4: Changing cities – case study of a major UK city		
Census		Population data/statistics collected every ten years in the UK.
Connectivity		The ability to connect and communicate between places.
Counter-urbanisation		The movement of people from urban areas to smaller settlements.
De-centralisation	Y	Shift of shopping activity and employment away from the Central Business district (CBD).
Deindustrialisation	Y	Decreased activity in manufacturing and closure of industries, leading to unemployment.
Ecological footprint		A calculation measured in global hectares (gha). It's the amount of land and water required to produce resources and deal with waste from each country.
Energy-efficient housing		Houses that help reduce energy consumption e.g. insulation and solar panels.
Ethnicity		A social group that shares the same culture, religion or language.
Function		The role of an area of place e.g. the CBD for business and retail.
Globalisation	Y	Increased connections between countries through trade owing to technological improvements.
Inequality		The unfair situation in society where some people have more opportunities than others.
International migration		The process of people changing their place of residence from one country to another.
Land use zones	Y	How land is use within urban areas e.g. the CBD, residential, industrial.
National migration		The process of people changing their place of residence within a country.
Re-urbanisation		When people who used to live in the city and then moved out to the country or to a suburb, move back to live in the city.



Site		The actual location of a settlement on the Earth, composed of the physical characteristics of the landscape.
Situation		The location of a place relative to its surroundings and other places.
Spatial growth	Y	Means relating to space e.g. the spatial growth of a city means how much extra space it takes up as it grows.
Suburbanisation		The outward spread of the built-up area.
Sustainable urban living		A way in which people can meet their needs without reducing the needs of others in the future through energy use, waste management and public transport.

Topic 4: Changing cities – case study of a major city in a developing or an emerging country		
Bottom-up approach		Projects that involve local people and communities in decision-making, often involving small-scale projects for the poorest.
Connectivity		The ability to connect and communicate between places.
Economic investment		Money that is used to improve an area.
Ethnicity		A social group that shares the same culture, religion or language.
Function		The role of an area of place e.g. the CBD for business and retail.
International migration		The process of people changing their place of residence from one country to another.
Land use zones	Y	How land is use within urban areas e.g. the CBD, residential, industrial.
National migration		The process of people changing their place of residence within a country.
Poverty		When people lack the means to satisfy basic needs such as water and food.
Quality of life		The standard of health, well-being and happiness of people.
Rate of natural increase	Y	The speed of change in the difference between the birth rate and the death rate.
Site		The actual location of a settlement on the Earth, composed of the physical characteristics of the landscape.
Situation		The location of a place relative to its surroundings and other places.
Spatial growth		Means relating to space e.g. the spatial growth of a city means how much extra space it takes up as it grows.
Squatter settlement		An area which consists of self-built houses made from scrap materials such as corrugated iron and



		plastic, usually without piped water, electricity or sewage disposal.
Top-down approach		Where decisions are made by governments or large companies with little consultation; often large-scale and expensive.
Under-employment		When there is not enough work to fully occupy a worker.

Understanding the process

As you can see from the terms above, urbanisation is the increase in the percentage of people living in towns and cities. As a process it is linked to industrialisation. As countries develop, services such as transport and access to safe water attract migrant workers to towns and cities. As towns and cities become increasingly more urbanised, more factories are built attracting more rural migrants to fill the jobs created.

This is a good example of the difference between *definition* and *process*.

Topic 5: Global development – overview		
Bottom-up development project		Projects that involve local people and communities in decision-making, often involving small-scale projects for the poorest.
Community-led		Where local people come together in response to a local need.
Food security		When all people always have access to enough, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy life.
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita		The total value of goods and services produced by a country in one year divided by the population.
Human Development Index		A standard means of measuring human development using health, wealth and education.
Indices of political corruption		An index that ranks countries on their perceived level of corruption.
Inter-governmental agreements		Any agreement between two or more governments.
International aid		The transfer of money, goods or services from one country to benefit the needs of another.
Measures of inequality		Economic, social and environmental indicators used to compare levels of development e.g. GDP and life expectancy.
Single vs composite measures	Y	Levels of development can be measured in different ways. One way is to use a single measure, such as GDP per capita, infant mortality and the number of people per doctor. No single measure can provide a complete picture of development, therefore composite measures that combine a number of



		different indicators are used e.g. the human development index (HDI).
Spatial variations in levels of development	Y	The changes in levels of development from one place to another, within the same country, or between countries.
Top-down development project		Where decisions are made by governments or large companies with little consultation; often large-scale and expensive.
Transnational corporation (TNC)		A firm that owns or controls production in more than one country through foreign direct investment.
Water security		The capacity of a population to safeguard sustainable access to adequate quantities of acceptable water quality.

Topic 5: Global development – case study of development in a developing country or an emerging country

Core and periphery	Y	The core is at the centre for economic development and investment whilst the periphery falls behind and the gap grows.
Demographic processes	Y	The changing size of populations owing to births, deaths and migration.
Developed country		A more economically developed country with higher levels of wealth and health e.g. the UK.
Developing country		Less economically developed countries with lower levels of wealth and health e.g. Niger.
Emerging country		Countries that are improving their levels of economic development through investment e.g. India.
Foreign policy		A government's strategy in working with other countries.
Geopolitical relationships		Political and trading relationships with other countries through imports and exports.
Global status		Set of features that describes the entity of a place at a particular time.
International trade	Y	The swapping of goods and services from one country to another.
Middle class		A social group of well-educated people with good jobs who are far from poor but are not rich either e.g. an accountant.
Military pacts		An alliance where places promise to defend one another.
Population pyramid		A population structure graph that shows the number of people in place by age group and gender.
Primary sector		Industry involved in the extraction of raw materials e.g. farming and fishing.
Private investment	Y	Money invested by companies and organisations.
Public investment	Y	Investment led by the state (government) with money collected through taxes.



Quaternary sector		Industry which provides intellectual services such as research and development e.g. a pharmaceutical engineer.
Rapid development	Y	When emerging countries develop extremely quickly through private and public investment.
Secondary sector		Industry involved in the processing of raw materials e.g. manufacturing cars.
Territorial disputes		Disagreements over control of land.
Tertiary sector		Industry that provide a service, such as banks, shops and schools.

Topic 6: Resource management – overview		
Abiotic		The non-living parts of an ecosystem.
Biodiversity		The number and variety of living species found in a specific area.
Biotic		The living parts of an ecosystem.
Fossil fuels		Finite energy resources such as coal, oil and natural gas that were formed from the remains of plants and animals that lived millions a years ago.
Soil erosion		The removal of the top layer of soil often caused by drought, deforestation and wind.

Topic 6A: Energy resource management		
Carbon footprint		Measurement of all the greenhouse gases an individual produces expressed as tonnes or kg of carbon dioxide equivalent.
Ecological footprint		Measure of the impact of human activities, expressed as the area of productive land and water required to produce the goods consumed and the wastes generated.
Energy mix		The proportion of different energy sources used in a county.
Fracking		Drilling into Earth using high-pressure water to release gas trapped inside rocks.
Global population projection		An estimate of the rising world population.
Human intervention		Where people try to make changes to improve places and environments..
Non-renewable		Energy that cannot reproduced such as coal, oil and natural gas that will eventually run out.
Renewable		A natural source of power that naturally replenishes itself and will never run out.
Stakeholder		A person with an interest or concern in something, such as those who are likely to be affected by fossil fuel extraction, deforestation or natural hazards.



Sustainable (use and management of energy resources)		Ability to continue to use energy resources without causing damage to the environment and compromising the needs of future generations.
---	--	---

Topic 6B: Water resource management		
Ageing infrastructure		The ageing of the framework of things such as roads and buildings.
Desalination	Y	The process of removing of salt and other minerals from sea water to make it suitable for human consumption.
Domestic water use		Water used in households for washing, cooking and cleaning.
Fresh water		Available water for human consumption.
Global population projection		An estimate of the changing world population.
Human intervention	Y	Where people try to make changes to improve places and environments.
Seasonal imbalances in rainfall		Where regions receive and uneven amount of rainfall from season to season.
Stakeholder		A person with an interest or concern in something, such as those who are likely to be affected by fossil fuel extraction, deforestation or natural hazards.
Sustainable (use and management of water resources)	Y	Ability to continue to use energy resources without causing damage to the environment and compromising the needs of future generations.
Untreated water		Water that has not be cleaned or purified.
Water course		The journey takes as it travels.
Water deficit		A situation where a place loses more water through evaporation and transpiration than it receives from rainfall.
Water stress		A situation where there is not enough water to meet people's needs, below 1700 cubic metres per person per year.
Water surplus		A situation where a place has more water than it needs.



Paper 3: Geographical investigations – Fieldwork and UK challenges

Fieldwork vocabulary

Don't forget about Fieldwork vocabulary! There are 36-marks available across the familiar and unfamiliar fieldwork questions, so it is important to remember these key terms too.

Two common mistakes are often between reliability and accuracy, and site and location.

Questions referencing sampling of data collection can be poorly answered in exam so you need to make sure you feel prepared for these questions.

Key term	Understanding the process(es)	Definition
Topic 7: Fieldwork – general		
Accuracy (data collection)		This will be down to how the data was collected. It will be affected by human error, quality of the equipment used and the method itself e.g. using a floating object versus a flow meter to measure velocity.
Catchment area		The area in which data was collected for an investigation.
Enquiry question		A question that has a clear purpose allowing an investigation to follow.
Geographical information system (GIS)		A form of electronic mapping that builds up maps layer by layer.
Human interaction	Y	Human behaviours during a geographical investigation.
Physical interaction	Y	Natural behaviours during a geographical investigation e.g. the weather.
Primary data source		Data collected first-hand.
Qualitative fieldwork methods		Data without numbers based on people's opinions or ideas, for example an interview or field sketch.
Quantitative fieldwork methods		Data which contains numbers and figures, for example a pedestrian count.
Random sampling		Data that is collected by chance.
Reliability (data collection)		Trustworthiness of results. This will be affected by the sampling method (and size) and is down to how representative the data collected is.
Risk assessment		A method where hazards are identified, and suitable precautions are taken to minimise risk to people.



Secondary data source		Data that has already been collected and published.
Stratified sampling		Data that is collected from different parts of a population or from different sections of a rivers course.
Systematic sampling		Data that is collected at regular intervals, for example every 500 metres.

Topic 7A: River landscapes		
Flood risk map		A map used to identify areas at risk from flooding.
River discharge		The volume of water flowing past a certain point in a river, measured in cubic metres per second (cumecs).

Topic 7A: Coastal landscapes		
Beach morphology		The shape and characteristics of a beach gradient.
Geology map		A map showing the dominant rock type in areas.
Sediment characteristics		The unique features (size and angularity) of material such as mud, sand and shingle.

Topic 7B: City environments		
Census data		Population data/statistics collected every ten years in the UK.
Central urban area		Usually the CBD, dominated by businesses and retail.
Inner urban area		Usually residential areas of terraced housing that surrounds the central urban area.
Land use function		The role of the land use within a place e.g. the CBD for business and retail.

Topic 7B: Rural environments		
Census data		Population data/statistics collected every ten years in the UK.
Flows of people		The movement of people.

Topic 8: UK Challenges		
Brownfield site		An area of land that has been built on before and can be regenerated for new constructions.
Climate change	Y	Variations in temperature and rainfall affect the whole world.
Conservation		Means protecting threatened biomes e.g. setting up national parks or banning trade in endangered species.
Environmental sustainability	Y	Able to continue developments without causing damage to the environment e.g. ecotourism.



Greenfield site		An area of land that has not been built on before.
Net migration		The difference between in migration and out migration.
Regeneration	Y	Means re-developing former industrial areas or housing to improve them.
Reliability		Honesty of results. This will be affected by the sampling method (and size) and is down to how representative the data collected is.
Resource consumption		The quantity and type of resources people use and for what purpose.
Sustainable transport		Transport methods that are more environmentally friendly such as hybrid buses and electric cars.
Two-speed economy	Y	How the South East is developing economically at a greater rate than other areas of the UK such as northern England, Scotland and Wales.



Support for Exam Questions

The following three strategies are amongst the most common and successful ideas for you to try when answering exam questions.

1. 'De-bugging' the question

When answering exam questions, try to 'de-bug' the question.

Try to **box** the command word, **underline** the key components and **go back** over the question as the example below illustrates:

Explain	<u>why</u> some <u>areas</u> are more <u>vulnerable</u> to the <u>impacts</u> of tropical <u>cyclones</u> than others.
---------	--

2. BLT

With extended 'explain' questions that are worth 3 or 4 marks, remember the acronym BLT, 'because', leading to' and 'therefore'. This will help develop your responses.

For example, *shield volcanoes are less steep because the lava is hot and runny leading to it spreading further, therefore forming shallow sided volcanoes.*

3. PEEL

PEEL paragraphs work well in geography for 8-mark questions. Make your **point**, using **evidence/exemplification** to support, explain your **point** and **link** it back to the question.

For example, *the most significant social impact of the 2011 Japan earthquake was the secondary effect of the tsunami. Approximately 20 000 people drowned as a result of the 10m high wave that crashed into the north east of Japan. Half a million people were also made homeless as houses were destroyed by the wall of water. This clearly demonstrates that the tsunami was the most severe social impact.*



Command words

Remember to be aware of the different words which are used at the start of the questions in the exam. These are called Command words and require you to do different things. These are the only command words that will be used in questions and will stay the same year on year

Identify/State/Name	Recall or select one or more piece(s) of information.
Define	State the meaning of the term.
Calculate	Produce a numerical working, showing the relevant working if asked.
Draw/plot	Create a graphical representation of geographical information.
Label	Add a label to a resource, graphic or image.
Describe	Give an account of the main characteristics of something or the steps in a process.
Compare	Find the similarities and differences of two elements given in a question. Responses must relate to both elements and include a statement of their similarity/difference.
Explain	Provide a reasoned explanation of how or why something occurs. An explanation requires a justification/exemplification of a point.
Suggest	Apply understanding to provide a reasoned explanation of how or why something may occur. A suggestion requires a justification/exemplification of a point.
Assess	Use evidence to determine the relative significance of something. Consider factors and identify the most important.
Discuss	Explore the strengths and weaknesses of different sides of an issue/question. Investigate the issue by reasoning or argument.
Evaluate	Measure the success of something and provide a substantiated judgement. Review information and then bring it together to form a conclusion, drawing on evidence.