

GEOGRAPHY GCSE FIELDWORK EXERCISES

AQA – Specification A

Teachers may choose from three different fieldtrip objectives

(1) Data collection for Controlled Assessment

Students are introduced to the task and location of fieldwork. They are involved with planning their investigation and then go on to collect primary data in the field. This data is then collated and processed. Depending on the duration of the trip students may also write up methodology, present their data and/or carry out further background research for their fieldwork folder.

OR

(2) Data collection and write-up of Controlled Assessment

Students are introduced to the task and location of fieldwork. They are involved with planning their investigation and then go on to collect primary data in the field. Back at the centre students begin to write up their methodology, and collate, process and present their data.

The analysis, conclusions and evaluation sections of the investigation can be completed at the centre under the direct supervision of visiting staff. A classroom will be made available to you for this purpose.

AND/OR

(3) Fieldwork to cover relevant content/ develop case studies/ develop fieldwork skills

We offer a wide range of physical and human geography studies which support the content of units 1 and 2 of this specification. Such studies may be included in the trip to help develop understanding and case study knowledge or to help students develop investigative and fieldwork skills which could be applied to a fieldwork investigation closer to home.

Fieldwork Summaries

Here is a brief overview of the fieldwork studies we offer which support this specification. These can be used as general fieldwork to back-up content and provide case studies, or can be tailored to meet AQA's set title for controlled assessment. For more detailed information on any of these studies please contact the centre.

Rocks, Resources and Scenery

Limestone Study

This study investigates processes and features of the limestone landscape in the Ystradfellte area of the Brecon Beacons National Park, and explores human use of this resource.

Quarry Development

Students investigate the economic, social and environmental consequences of a quarry development. They are also asked to consider the long-term implications, including the possible end-use of the site.

Living World

Woodland Management

A investigation into the success of management on an area of deciduous woodland in the Brecon Beacons National Park. This study also looks at the relationship between micro-climate, soils and living factors in an ecosystem.

Moorland Ecology

An investigation into the relationship between plant distribution and soil characteristics along a transect from a moorland to a mire.

We can also offer fieldwork in a variety of other habitats including sand dunes, colliery spoil and freshwater if required.

Water on the Land

River Study

An investigation into downstream changes in river channel processes and characteristics on the Afon Caerfanell (a tributary of the River Usk, located in the Brecon Beacons National Park). This study also investigates the landforms and the processes affecting them at different points along the course.

Hydrology and Flood management

Either Brecon or Hereford may be used as an example of flooding and flood defence schemes. To help in the understanding of the fluvial processes involved in flooding and its prevention, this may be coupled with measurements of a natural river channel (e.g. The Afon Caerfanell – described above).

Ice on the land

Glaciated Landscapes in the Brecon Beacons

This study considers processes of glaciation and investigates resulting post-glacial landforms, both erosional and depositional; from corries, U-shaped valleys and associated truncated spurs to recessional and terminal moraines. Human use of the glaciated landscape is also considered.

The Coastal Zone

Coastal Processes and management on the Glamorgan Heritage Coast

An investigation into the processes and resulting landforms at Col Huw on the Glamorgan Heritage Coast. This is a coastline which is affected by both cliff retreat and localised flooding/storm damage. Students are also introduced to the current defences at the site and encouraged to evaluate their suitability in the short and long-term.

Conflicts on the Coast and Sand Dune Management

Alternatively fieldwork may focus on the impact of visitors on Kenfig National Nature Reserve. The fieldwork can be coupled with a talk by a warden at Kenfig National Nature Reserve, dealing with conflicts and threats on the coast (both from recreation and economic development) along with management issues.

Changing Rural Environments

Rural Study

We work in a variety of villages in the local area – the specific village(s) used depends on the focus of the investigation. Themes covered include, suburbanised village, commuter village, the impact of tourism on the rural economy, village services – relating to level of rurality, and declining villages.

Farm Visit

This short visit may be incorporated into the rural study or chosen as a separate half-day activity. We visit a farmer in the National Park who talks through issues such as diversification, use of technology in farming, the role of the national park, the role of government/ EU funding and countryside stewardship. *(N.B. the farm we normally use for this fieldwork charges a small fee per group).*

Tourism

Tourism in the Brecon Beacons National Park

This study may include;

- an investigation of footpath erosion and trampling on Pen-y-Fan, the highest mountain in South Wales, and how the site has been managed to minimise the impacts.
- A visit to the Mountain Centre (one of the National Park visitor centres), including a talk from a warden.
- A visit to Llangors Lake (and village), which is a 'honey-pot' in the Brecon Beacons National Park, as well as a SSSI. Here we look at the conflict between visitors and conservation.