

GEOGRAPHY GCSE FIELDWORK EXERCISES

AQA – Specification B

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.

The Coastal Environment

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.

The Urban Environment

Urban Regeneration – Cardiff Bay

This study investigates the major regeneration project which has transformed the former Cardiff Docklands, an area which had for many years experienced socio-economic decline and environmental degradation. How successful has the project been and what challenges still remain?

Inequalities in an urban area

During this study students compare socio-economic and Environmental factors in different areas of Cardiff.

River Pollution

The rivers of the South Wales "Valleys" have suffered decades of pollution from urban and industrial sources. This exercise examines the impact of such pollution on a river ecosystem in Ebbw Vale.

Investigating the globalisation of Industry

By working in the old industrial region of the South Wales valleys we are able to cover themes of industrial location, impact of industrial decline, impact on a population of changing industry and the role of TNC's.

Investigating Global Tourism

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.
- Heritage Tourism in the Blaenafon Landscape (a World Heritage Site)
- Coastal Tourism in South Wales
- Use of other local sites as necessary to meet requirements of controlled assessment tasks.