

# GEOGRAPHY GCSE FIELDWORK EXERCISES

## OCR – 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/support decision making exercise if appropriate**

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 OCR's set title for **controlled assessment**. For more detailed information on any of these studies please contact the centre.

### Rivers

#### 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).

### Coasts

#### 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.

### Population and Settlement

#### 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, village services – relating to level of rurality/ population size, and declining villages.

#### Abergavenny Town Study

Students investigate past and potential future changes to the CBD in Abergavenny, including the impact of an out of town supermarket on the town centre and future plans to develop the cattle market site. Alternatively students may investigate whether or not Abergavenny can be considered a 'clone town'.

#### 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?

#### Other settlement studies for controlled assessment

We will tailor a study to the 'population and settlement' controlled assessment task each year. For example this may involve work on the CBD, urban land use, environmental quality in urban areas or an urban transect (as required by the board).

### Economic Development

#### Industrial Change in the South Wales Valleys

By working in the old industrial region of the South Wales coalfield 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.

We may also be able to provide studies which support some topic areas for the **Geographical Investigation**, (depending on the titles set in any year) e.g.

### **Ecosystems**

We are able to lead fieldwork on the ecology and management of a variety of habitats including woodland, moorland, colliery spoil, sand dunes and polluted and clean freshwater habitats.

### **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