

GEOGRAPHY GCSE FIELDWORK EXERCISES

WJEC – 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 one of WJEC's generic titles for controlled assessment. For more detailed information on any of these studies please contact the centre.

Water

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).

Our Changing Coastline

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.

Living Things

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)

Retail and Urban change

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 (not for controlled assessment)

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?

Economic Change and Wales

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.

Diversification of the rural economy

This study looks at how changing patterns of employment are affecting a rural area, including commuter villages, the impact of tourism, conversion of agricultural buildings, second homes, and changes to services. Fieldwork in the village is combined with the farm visit (detailed below)

Farm Visit

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).*