

Tectonic processes and hazards

- Why are some places more at risk from tectonic hazards?
- Why do some tectonic hazards develop into disasters?
- How successful is the management of tectonic hazards and disasters?

Diverse places

- How do population structures vary?
- How do different people view diverse living spaces?
- Why are there demographic and cultural tensions in diverse places?
- How successfully are cultural and demographic issues managed?

Coastal landscapes and change

- Why are coastal landscapes different and what processes cause these differences?
- How do characteristic coastal landforms contribute to coastal landscapes?
- How do coastal erosion and sea level change alter the physical characteristics of coastlines and increase risks?
- How can coastlines be managed to meet the needs of all players?

Globalisation

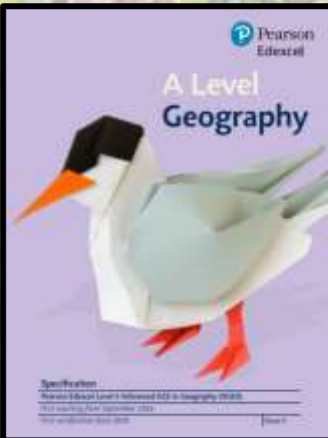
- What are the causes of globalisation and why has it been accelerated in recent decades?
- What are the impacts of globalisation for countries, different groups of people and cultures and the physical environment?
- What are the consequences of globalisation for global development and the physical environment and how should different players respond to its challenges?

Synoptic Themes

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| 1. Players (P) | Who are the different players (individuals, groups and organisations, stakeholders) involved in geographical issues and decisions (interdependence, globalisation, systems)? Why do some players have greater influence than others (inequality)? This includes: international players (Intergovernmental organisations (IGOs)), national and local government, large and small private businesses, transnational corporations (TNCs), pressure groups and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) as well as others in particular contexts. |
| 2. Attitudes and actions (A) | Why do attitudes to geographical issues (identity) vary so greatly and how does this influence actions (policies and choice of strategy and management methods)? Influences on values and attitudes include identity, political and religious views, priority given to profit, importance of social justice and equality and attitudes towards the natural environment (conservation and sustainability versus exploitation). |
| 3. Futures and uncertainties (F) | There are contrasting approaches when making decisions about geographical issues that will affect people in the future. These include business as usual, priority towards more sustainable strategies and radical alternatives (mitigation and adaptation). Choice of objective will affect both people and the environment in very different ways (risk, resilience and thresholds). The outcomes of choices made today are uncertain for a range of reasons, including scientific, demographic, economic and political uncertainty. |

Non-examination assessment: Independent investigation

- The purpose of this non-examination assessment is to test students' skills in independent investigation. Students are required to undertake an independent investigation that involves (but which need not be restricted to) fieldwork. The focus of the investigation must be derived from the specification the student is studying. The guidance for word length is 3000-4000 words.
- The student defines a question or issue relating to the compulsory or optional content. The student's investigation will incorporate fieldwork data (collected individually or as part of a group) and own research and/or secondary data. The student's report will evidence independent analysis and evaluation of data, presentation of data findings and extended writing.



The water cycle and water insecurity

- What are the processes operating within the hydrological cycle from global to local scale?
- What factors influence the hydrological system over short- and long-term timescales?
- How does water insecurity occur and why is it becoming such a global issue for the 21st Century?

Superpowers

- What are superpowers and how have they changed over time?
- What are the impacts of superpowers on the global economy, political systems and the physical environment?
- What spheres of influence are contested by superpowers and what are the implications of this?

The carbon cycle and energy security

- How does the carbon cycle operate to maintain planetary health?
- What are the consequences for people and the environment of our increasing demand for energy?
- How are the carbon and water cycles linked to the global climate system?

Health, human rights and intervention

- What is human development and why do levels vary from place to place?
- Why do human rights vary from place to place?
- How are human rights used as arguments for political and military intervention?
- What are the outcomes of geopolitical interventions in terms of human development and human rights?