

GCSE GEOGRAPHY AQA



AQA GCSE Geography Specification

Key Concepts

The AQA GCSE Geography Specification covers a wide range of key concepts that students will need to understand. These include:

- Physical Landscapes: Understanding natural processes and their impact on the Earth's landscapes.
- Human Landscapes: Analysing socio-economic and political factors influencing human settlements.
- Sustainability: Exploring the balance between economic development and environmental protection.
- Climate Change: Investigating the causes and consequences of climate change
- Global Challenges: Addressing Issues such as poverty, deprivation and resource use

These concepts are essential for students to develop a comprehensive understanding of the Earth's processes and environments, preparing them for further academic pursuits and real-world applications

Geography

Subject Overview

- **Living with the physical environment**
- Section A: The challenge of natural hazards (Tectonics, Atmospheric)
- Section B: Physical landscapes in the UK (Coasts, Rivers)
- Section C: The living world (Ecosystems, Tropical Rainforests, Ice)
- **Challenges in the human environment**
- Section A: Urban issues and challenges
- Section B: The changing economic world
- Section C: The challenge of resource management
- **Geographical applications**
- Section A: Issue evaluation
- Section B: Fieldwork

Geography

How is it assessed?:

Unit 1 Exam: 90 minutes 35% of course

Unit 2 Exam: 90 minutes 35% of course

Unit 3 Exam: 75 minutes 30% of course

(Pre-release resources made available from March in the year of the exam)

(2 fieldwork visits in Y11)

Teachers:

Mr Atkinson

Mr Knott

Why Geography?

- Links to other subjects: Maths, Science, English, Psychology, Business, History
- Respected Humanities subject
- Modern and interesting topics
- Want to know about the world
- Employability
- Balance between Science, Arts and Social Science

Trips

-Llandudno

-KS4 and KS5 trip

•Living with the physical environment

- Section A: The challenge of natural hazards (Tectonics, Atmospheric)
- Section B: Physical landscapes in the UK (Coasts, Rivers)
- Section C: The living world (Ecosystems, Tropical Rainforests, Ice)

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 10	The Living World	The Living World	UK Landscapes Rivers	UK Landscapes Coasts	Tectonic Hazards	Weather Hazards
Living with the physical environment	Wk 1: Ecosystems Wk 2: Global Ecosystems Wk 3: Napp Wood Wk 4: Rainforest characteristics Wk 5: Malaysia causes of deforestation Wk 6: Malaysia impacts	Wk 1: Sustainable management Wk 2: Cold Environments Wk 3: Svalbard opportunities Wk 4: Svalbard challenges Wk 5: Cold environments under threat Wk 6: Managing cold environments	Wk 1: UK relief and landscape Wk 2: River valleys Wk 3: Processes Wk 4: Landforms Wk 5: River Tees Wk 6: Management inc. Banbury	Wk 1: Waves Wk 2: Mass Movement Wk 3: Coastal Landforms Wk 4: Swannege Wk 5: Managing Coasts Wk 6: Lyme Regis	Wk 1: Natural Hazards Wk 2: Distribution of EQ and Volcanoes Wk 3: Physical processes Wk 4: Earthquakes Wk 5: Living with hazards Wk 6: Reducing the risks	Wk 1: Global atmospheric circulation Wk 2: Tropical Storms Wk 3: Reducing the effects Wk 4: Weather in UK and extreme Wk 5: Somerset Levels floods Wk 6: Climate Change
Assessments						

Year 11	Challenges in the human environment	Urban Issues Rio De Janeiro	Urban Issues Bristol	Development Gap	Nigeria and UK	Energy and Resource management
		Wk 1: Megacities and urbanisation Wk 2: Rio growth and importance Wk 3: Rio social and economic challenges Wk 4: Rio Environment issues Wk 5: Squatter settlements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wk 6: Panning for Rio's poor 	Wk 1: UK Population distribution Wk 2: Bristol social opportunities Wk 3: Bristol economic and environment Wk 4: Social inequality in Bristol Wk 5: Housing in Bristol Wk 6: Regeneration in Bristol	Wk 1: measuring our unequal world Wk 2: DTM and population structures Wk 3: Uneven development Wk 4: Reducing the Gap Wk 5: Aid, Fair Trade and tech Wk 6: Debt relief and tourism	Wk 1: Nigeria in the wider world Wk 2: Industry in Nigeria Wk 3: Nigeria's environment and quality of life Wk 4: UK post-industrial economy Wk 5: Rural and transport Wk 6: UK in wider world	Wk 1: Global pattern of resources Wk 2: Water, Food and Energy Wk 3: Global energy and insecurity Wk 4: Strategies to increase energy supply Wk 5: Sustainable energy use Wk 6: Chambamonetra

- Challenges in the human environment
- Section A: Urban issues and challenges
- Section B: The changing economic world
- Section C: The challenge of resource management

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Assessments							



Year 10 Case-studies and examples





Year 11 case-studies and examples













CASE STUDY- SVALBARD

L/O- To identify development opportunities in Svalbard
(cold environment)



- The Northernmost Town On Earth



Location



Mineral Extraction

- Svalbard has rich coal reserves
- Vital to the economy – it is the main economic activity, employing over 300 people
- A new mine opened near Svea in 2014 – a road had to be constructed over a glacier to access it!
- Some of this coal is burned in the Longyearbyen power station- this supplies all of Svalbard's energy needs

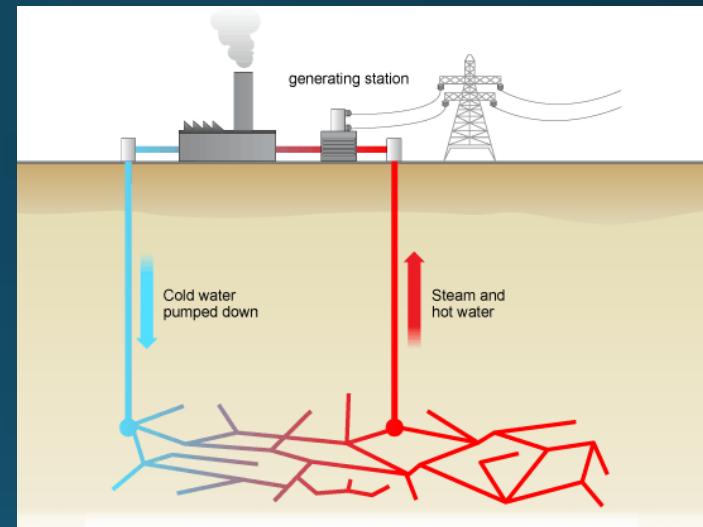
However:

- Mining is a controversial issue (greenhouse gases)
- In recent years it has faced a decline due to lower world coal prices- some jobs have been lost



Energy Developments

- Due to environmentalists and loss of jobs, Svalbard is exploring renewable energy sources.
- Geothermal energy is the most likely future source
- Svalbard is located close to the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, a constructive plate margin.
- The Earth's crust is thin here and hot rocks are close to the surface. GE taps into this heat to produce electricity.
- Another source of energy could come from carbon capture and storage. This captures CO₂ from burning coal and circulating it to generate electricity.



Fishing

- The Barents Sea (South of Svalbard) is one of the richest fishing grounds in the world
- An estimated 150 species of fish here
- A very important area as it is a major breeding ground for fish stocks, so needs to be protected from pollution
- Fishing here is jointly controlled and monitored by Norway and Russia to help protect it

Tourism

- Tourism has grown in recent years in Svalbard. Adventure tourism has become more popular – Svalbard is an excellent place for this.
- In 2011, 70 000 people visited Longyearbyen (30 000 of which were cruise passengers)
- The harbour at Longyearbyen has been enlarged due to increased numbers of cruise ships
- Provides 300 jobs for local people
- Things to do; visit the glaciers and fjords, see wildlife (polar bears), hiking, snow mobile safaris, northern lights





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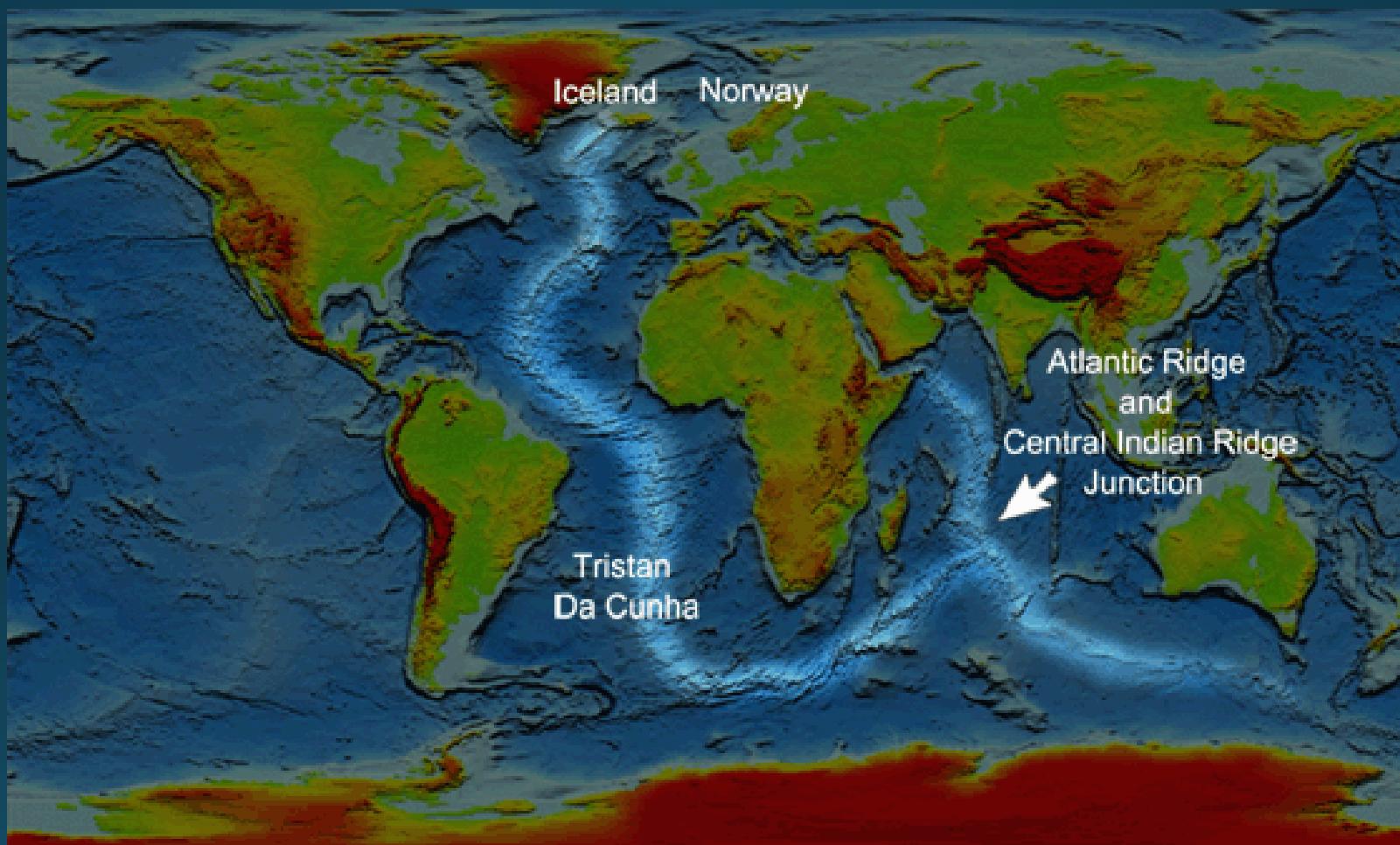




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CASE STUDY-SVALBARD: Challenges

L/O- To identify challenges of development in Svalbard



- Overground service pipes
- Services include – water, sanitation and electricity
- Most of these services are provided to individual buildings by over ground heated water and sewage pipes
- Need to be kept off ground to prevent them thawing the permafrost and so they can be easily maintained



- Tourist expectations – they will usually expect comfortable living with warm rooms/ hot showers
- This has to be taken into account as tourism grows and the economy becomes more dependent on it
- The over ground service pipes help this
- The tourist board also advises them on what it is like and how to prepare for the extreme cold



Accessibility

- A very remote place – a lot of the islands are inaccessible and transport is restricted to areas around Longyearbyen
- Only 50 km of roads – no other roads for other communities. People therefore use snowmobiles



- Extreme temperatures
- Winters temps often fall below -30°C
- These temperatures make it dangerous to work outside- frostbite
- People therefore have to wear lots of thick layers
- This keeps them safe but makes it very hard to do things like building work!



- Permafrost has to be protected from melting
- If it starts to melt, it becomes unstable, could cause buildings/ roads to crack, possible collapse
- Therefore most of the roads are dirt or gravel roads raised above ground surface
- They are easier to maintain and don't damage permafrost, plus it's cheaper



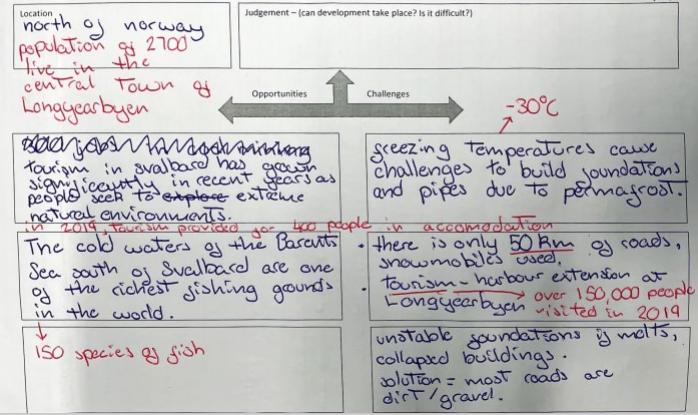
Polar night

- This combined with the extreme cold makes working outdoors in winter very demanding
- Therefore most construction has been carried out in summer
- Construction that has been carried out includes;
 - Building houses, shops, offices
 - Roads
 - Enlarging the harbour facilities for fishing and tourism
 - Construction for mining and extracting coal

Topic:	
Cues:	Notes:
	
Summary:	

q: In a named cold environment, to what extent are there opportunities for development?

Opportunities for development in Svalbard?



Topic: Svalbard

Cues:

location :

opportunities (2) :

challenges: (2)



Notes: population of 2700 people live in the central north of Norway, town of Longyearbyen

- ~~older jobs in coal mining~~
- tourism in svalbard has grown significantly in recent years as people seek to explore extreme natural environments. available in coal mining.
- the cold waters of the Barents sea south of Svalbard are one of the richest fishing grounds in the world. 150 species of fish
- freezing temperatures cause challenges to build foundations and pipes due to permafrost.
- there is only 50km of roads and snowmobiles are used
- tourism - harbour extension at Longyearbyen. over 150,000 people visited in 2019.
- unstable foundations in melts it will lead to the collapse of buildings. solution = most roads are dirt/gravel.

Summary: (conclusion)

I think that the opportunities and challenges in Svalbard are both good and bad. A positive is that when people are visiting the can help the community. However, a bad aspect is that it can't rely on local buildings and warm water to provide for local tourists.

• locate
• 2 challenges
• 2 opportunities
• conclusion

In a named cold environment, to what extent are there opportunities for development? (9)

North of Norway there is a little place named Svalbard. It has a population of 2,700 people, which 2,700 of them live in the central town of Longyearbyen.

In a small place like Svalbard there can be many opportunities and disadvantages. There are some opportunities. Tourism in Svalbard has grown rapidly across the years recent years. This may be because of all the extreme climate and the cold natural environment. However it catches eyes because in 2019 over 150,000 people visited Svalbard. This is a good economy for the community because they take advantage of tourists by offering them jobs while they stay. For example there are 300 jobs available in coal mining. Tourism is also useful because in 2019 it provided 400 people for accommodation.

Fishing is also a good opportunity as it contains 150 species of fish within the cold waters of the Barents sea (south of Svalbard) which are one of the richest fishing grounds in the world.

However there can be some challenges such as the temperatures. The freezing temperatures can reach to -30°. This can cause major challenges to build foundations such as hospitals, hotels and houses. Pipes are destroyed due to permafrost as it destroys infrastructure. This can make it hard to build vital shelter during a short 1-2 months summer.

carry on from next 2 pages

Topic: Svalbard



Cues:

where is it?

opportunity with facts challenge:

opportunity with facts challenges:

Notes:

- Norway territory, most northerly town
5 islands, Arctic Ocean, 2900 population
Barents Sea

Tourism, 150,000 ~~visitors~~ ^{seas} year visits
4500 cruise ships, 400 jobs more (2019)
not very accessible (airport, ships)
not urbanised much not meet expectation

Mineral extraction, 300 jobs, very
rich coal, new mine 2014
greenhouse gasses, ~~but~~ ^{and} all mines
shut except 1 in 2017, lost some
jobs, extreme temps (dangerous to work)

Summary:

There are very good opportunities ~~but~~ but
some bad challenges but overall there are
definitely some good opportunities for development

Svalbard

In a ~~named~~ cold environment, to what extent are there opportunities for development? (9)



Svalbard is 5 islands in Norwegian territory with the most northerly town ~~with a~~ and a total population of around 2700 people.

An opportunity for development in Svalbard is tourism. Tourism is a great opportunity as in 2019 it ~~had~~ had 150,000 visits from 4500 cruise ship arrivals. Doing this provided over 400 extra jobs in Svalbard. There is almost always a challenge and for this its accessibility and Urbanisation. Svalbard can only be accessed by planes from its single airport or ships. Tourists expect luxury living conditions and Svalbard can't do this for everyone.

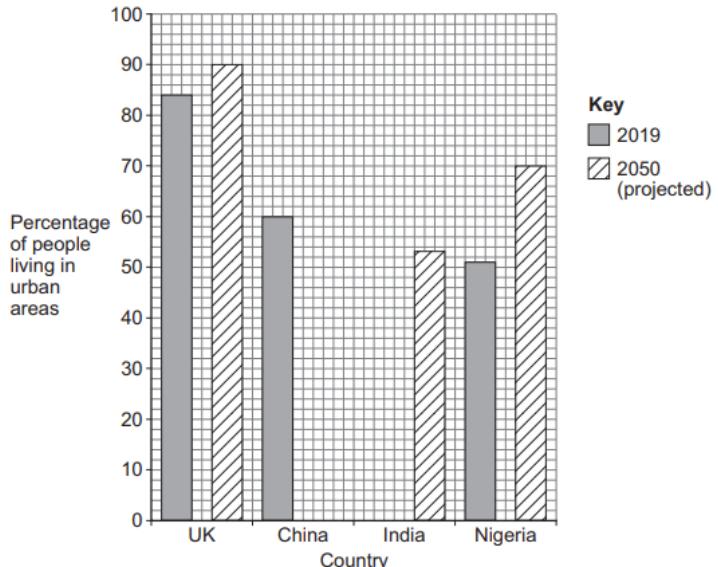
Another opportunity for development in Svalbard is mineral extraction. This is because Svalbard has a very rich coal supply ~~but~~ therefore making them build many mines causing an extra 300 jobs. As well as tourism, mineral extraction has downsides such as the government closing all mines but 1, causing job losses. Also working in Svalbard is dangerous due to extreme temps reaching below -30°C.

To conclude, I think tourism is better as the challenge can be easy to fix and it brings in more jobs for Svalbard.

Study **Figure 1**, a graph showing the percentage of people living in urban areas in selected countries.

Do not write outside the box

Figure 1



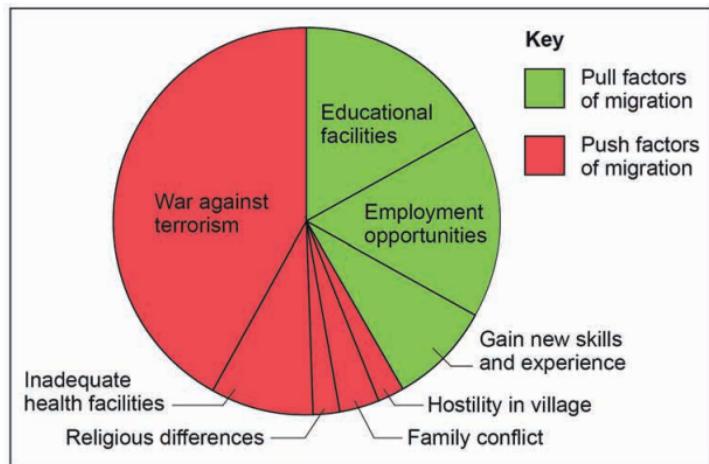
0 1 . 2

Complete **Figure 1** using the following data.

[2 marks]

Country	% living in urban areas in 2019	% living in urban areas in 2050 (projected)
UK	84	90
China	60	80
India	35	53
Nigeria	51	70

Figure 2

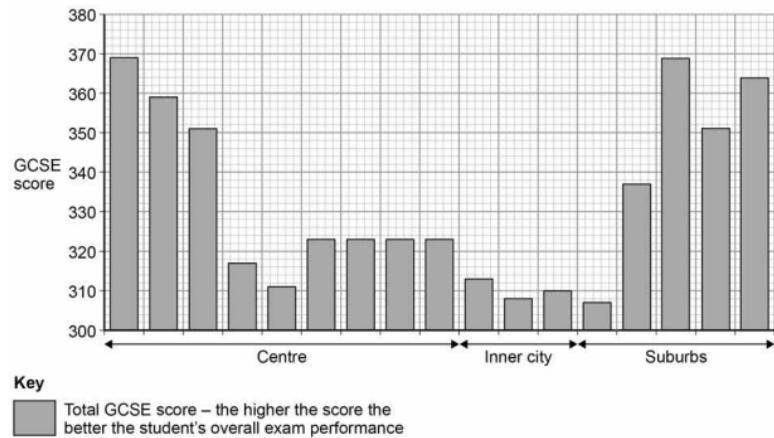


0 1 . 3 Describe the pattern of reasons for migration shown in **Figure 2**.

[2 marks]

Study **Figure 4**, a graph showing GCSE scores along a transect through a UK city.

Figure 4



0 1 . 6 Calculate the range in GCSE scores shown in **Figure 4**. [1 mark]

0 1 . 7 Using **Figure 4** and your own understanding, suggest reason(s) for inequalities in education in urban areas in the UK. [4 marks]

Study **Figure 2**, a photo of a shared toilet in an Indian city.

Figure 2



0 1 . 5 Suggest why sanitation systems in cities in LICs/NEEs create challenges. [4 marks]

Use **Figure 2** and your own understanding.

0 1 . 4

Explain how urban industrial areas can help encourage development.

Use **Figure 2** and your own understanding.

[6 marks]

Extra space _____

Study **Figure 5a** and **Figure 5b** which were taken at point X on **Figure 4**.

They show the same location before and after a regeneration scheme.

Figure 5a



Figure 5b



0 1 . 1 1

Suggest how a regeneration project can solve urban problems.

Use **Figure 5a** and **Figure 5b** and a UK example you have studied.

[9 marks]

[+3 SPaG marks]
