

Year 10	Emerging	Developing	Securing	Mastering
Application of geographical skills	Can describe patterns using basic data and attempt some OS map skills (e.g. 6-figure GR, scale). Use basic graphs (bar, line) with guidance.	Use a range of graphs (climate, choropleth, pie charts) with growing accuracy. OS map skills used with confidence. Can extract information from fieldwork sources.	Securely use OS maps, graphs and data sources (field sketches, photographs). Can make links and analyse patterns.	Uses full range of graphical, cartographic and statistical skills independently to draw conclusions and evaluate evidence. Can compare and critique data reliability.
Contextual knowledge of locations and places	Recalls basic facts about case studies. Uses vague locational language (e.g. "near the coast").	Can use place-specific detail and accurate locational knowledge, including regional and global examples.	Uses detailed place-specific knowledge (case studies in depth) at a range of scales. Links knowledge to processes.	Integrates a wide range of place-specific detail with processes and concepts. Analyses similarities and differences between case studies.
Competence in geographical enquiry	Uses simple questions. Can collect data with support. Can describe results.	Plans basic enquiries. Collects and presents data using structured methods.	Designs and carries out enquiries with minimal guidance. Can analyse and draw conclusions.	Independently conducts full enquiry cycle, including evaluation of methods and data reliability.
Understanding of the physical geography of the world around us	Basic understanding of natural processes (e.g. erosion, tectonics). Can describe effects.	Can explain processes (e.g. erosion, weathering) and link to landform formation. Basic understanding of sequence.	Secure understanding of processes and landforms with secure explanation of sequences. Can apply to unfamiliar examples.	Detailed and accurate explanation of physical processes and landforms, with ability to evaluate impacts and responses across case studies.
Understanding of the human geography of the world around us	Can describe patterns of population, development or urbanisation. Basic understanding of causes.	Explains causes and effects of change (e.g. urban growth, development disparities) with examples.	Analyses human processes and makes links to physical context. Uses specific case study knowledge.	Evaluates the complexity of human-environment interactions using detailed examples and data. Assesses sustainability of solutions.

Geographical communication	Writes basic PEEL/PEE paragraphs. Basic use of geographical terms.	Develops PEEL answers with good geographical terminology. Some analysis attempted.	Communicates ideas clearly and analytically with consistent use of key terms. Paragraphing is effective, PEEL structure used.	Demonstrates high-level written communication with logical structure, synthesis of ideas, and confident geographical vocabulary. Confident use of PEEL structure.
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Year 11	Emerging	Developing	Securing	Mastering
Application of geographical skills	Undertaking exam-style skills. Basic data interpretation.	Uses skills more confidently across Paper 1/2 content (e.g. interpreting maps, photos, graphs). Basic answers to fieldwork questions.	Applies a full range of skills (e.g. statistics, sketching, cross-sections, GIS) effectively in context.	Confidently and accurately selects and applies skills to evaluate evidence and justify conclusions in unfamiliar contexts. Exam practice is confident.
Contextual knowledge of locations and places	Recalls basic case study detail.	Uses relevant and accurate place detail in answers. Links between examples improving.	Uses place-specific knowledge securely, integrating facts and processes. Strong comparative understanding	Confidently draws on a range of global contexts with synthesis and evaluative comparison. Exemplifies critical thinking.
Competence in geographical enquiry	Describes fieldwork method and basic results. Evaluation is basic.	Can explain methods and present results clearly. Good understanding of data analysis.	Analyses and evaluates fieldwork techniques and draws supported conclusions.	Independently evaluates enquiry process, suggesting improvements, and linking to specification content confidently.
Understanding of the physical geography of the world around us	Recalls processes with basic depth. Explains basic cause and effect.	Explains full sequence of processes with case study examples. Can analyse impacts and responses.	Explains and evaluates processes and responses (e.g. flood management, tectonic preparation).	Critically analyses impacts, mitigation and adaptation strategies across physical case studies. Examines global implications.
Understanding of the human geography of the world around us	Can recall basic human concepts (e.g. push/pull, globalisation) with examples.	Understands and explains social, economic, environmental impacts of development and change.	Evaluates challenges and strategies in human environments. Integrates multiple perspectives.	Critically evaluates the sustainability and effectiveness of responses to urban, economic and development issues.

Geographical communication	Answers use basic structure and use of terminology.	Uses structure and key terms more consistently. Can explain and analyse.	Answers are analytical, structured and fluent, with consistent key term usage.	Demonstrates high-level, coherent written arguments with complex explanations and strong evaluative language.
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