

Geography Geography skills and fieldwork

Your teacher will tell you which topic you should revise. Read and learn all the information in the topic, ready for a Quiz in lesson. Topic 1: Fieldwork theory

A key part of your geography GCSE is the undertaking of fieldwork – this is part of your paper 3 exam 'Geographical Skills'.

You will need to complete one **physical** and one **human** fieldwork study.

Each study will attempt to answer a question that you want to find the answer to.

For each question, you will need to know why the hypothesis (question) that we have chosen is suitable for a geographical enquiry.

You'll also need to know the geographical theory behind your question.

Make sure you know the risks associated with collecting your data were, how they were reduced and why the location you chose was suitable.

You need to describe and justify what data you collected.

- If this was primary data (data that you collected yourself), you will need to justify why you collected, measured and recorded it.
- If this was secondary data (data that someone else collected), you will need to justify why and how you used it.

Keywords:

- Hypothesis question or idea you want to investigate
- Methodology how you will investigate your hypothesis
- Evaluation a summary of the investigation





Geography Geography skills and fig

Geography skills and fieldwork

Your teacher will tell you which topic you should revise. Read and learn all the information in the topic, ready for a Quiz in lesson. Topic 2: Gathering data

Ways of collecting data include:

- Measurements that you make using a variety of equipment
- Images such as photos that you take on your phone
- Maps or diagrams you complete
- Responses to questions you ask people through questionnaires or interviews

There are two main types of primary data that students may collect on fieldwork: quantitative data and qualitative data:

Quantitative data refers to numbers - these could be the size of pebbles on a beach, number of cars in a car park or footfall past a shop. Numbers can be counted, averaged and compared overtime – they may then be used to refer to an expectation. For example, are they higher or lower than average? How do they compare with other places and different times of the day or year?

Qualitative data does not necessarily involve numbers but refers to the wider exploration of a place. This could involve a sense of how safe people feel and be rated out of 10. This is not an actual value that everyone would give, it refers to a feeling that place provides.

Why are questionnaires useful?

- Questionnaires can be used when you want to consult with a group of people to find out what their thoughts and opinions are on a particular subject or issue.
- Each question should aim to collect a specific piece of data which can then contribute towards the final conclusion.
- Do not have too many questions people may feel that they don't have time to answer them.
- Have a mixture of open and closed questions, open questions enable people to offer any answer or opinion, whereas closed questions offer a response of 'yes' or 'no'.
- Avoid asking leading questions such as 'what do you think of the horrible effects of noise pollution?' as this prompts people to answer in a particular way.
- You might also want to ask some questions which require people to rate or score something perhaps on a scale from one to 10.

Year 11 Term 1



Geography Geography skills and fieldwork

Your teacher will tell you which topic you should revise. Read and learn all the information in the topic, ready for a Quiz in lesson. Topic 3: Analysis and evaluation

How do you analyse your findings?

You will need to analyse the primary data you gather during your field trip along with any secondary day you may collect from other resources such as websites.

You may analyse the data in different ways:

- Look at relationships between different sets of data you collect
- Make predictions from trends that can be seen in your data
- Look at the trend lines on graphs
- Draw lines of best fit

How do you reach conclusions and evaluate your work?

This is not just the end of the fieldwork trip, this is also the beginning of your understanding and the start of further exploration. You may be asked what you would do differently if you were to start the process again and you should consider the limitations of the methods that you've used.

- Fieldwork should be summed up using the main themes which were introduced at the start of the process and the extent to which the main hypothesis has been answered.
- How good are the conclusions that you have reached?
- What unexpected results have you come across? Did this change your conclusion?

You need to evaluate the work you have completed. This means assessing the value of it - ask yourself the following questions:

- 1. Were the methods I used appropriate?
- 2. Did the methods I use help me answer my question?
- 3. Was I able to answer my original hypothesis (question) given the primary and secondary data I collected?

Geography Support and application

Vocabulary	Wider Research	Apply
1. Physical 2. Human	Introduction to conducting fieldwork: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zypb6fr/revision/1	Task 1: Create a key word glossary for you to put up in your room or at the back of your exercise book in class.
 Cross profile Field sketch Groyne Rock armour Sea wall Erosion Hydraulic action Abrasion Attrition Solution 	Qualitative and quantitative data: <u>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zycqg82/revision/1</u> Numerical and statistical skills: <u>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z8v8ycw/revision/1</u> Coastal fieldwork techniques: <u>https://www.internetgeography.net/fieldwork/coastal-</u>	Key Word Definition Task 2: Create a revision guide for coastal processes focusing on the following topics: • Geomorphic processes
 Freeze-thaw Hard engineering Wave-cut 	fieldwork/coastal-fieldwork-techniques/ https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/coasts- (1)/	 Hard and soft engineering The impact of human activity
notch 16. Central Business	Settlement diagrams for human geography study: https://www.3dgeography.co.uk/settlement-diagrams	Task 3: Plan and write an answer to any of the exam questions below. Hand it in to your teacher to mark.
District 17. Quality of life 18. Hypothesis 19. Methodology 20. Evaluation 21. Employment 22. Poverty 23. Deprivation 24. Sampling 25. Environmental		 a) Describe a way in which pedestrian count data could be presented. Give reasons why this would be an appropriate choice. (4 marks) b) To what extent do you think that river basins increase the risk of flooding in the UK? (6 marks)