

# OCR A level Geography

## F764 Geographical Skills

The first thing for you to know is that a geographical investigation is split into six stages:

1. Identifying a suitable question
2. Develop a plan
3. Collect and record data
4. Data presentation
5. Analysis and interpretation
6. Conclusion and evaluation

You must learn these; they will be the basis for all the questions on this paper.

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### **The exam**

It lasts one and a half hours.

There are two sections (A and B). You answer one question from Section A and both the Section B questions. Each question is worth 20 marks.

### **Section A**

You answer one question from a choice of three from Section A. These questions are data response (i.e. you will get a photo, graph, etc. and be asked three sub-questions on it).

The part (a) question will refer to the resource and will ask you to evaluate or justify the resource. For example: Is it a good graph?

This question is worth 5 marks.

Part (b) will be linked to part (a), but will develop your ideas further. For example: Describe and evaluate two other ways of showing the information from part (a).

This is worth 10 marks and really needs you to go into depth.

Part (c) is not linked to (a) or (b) and will generally ask you to look at a different stage of the investigation. It is worth 5 marks.

## Section B

There are two questions in this section, both worth 20 marks. You answer them both. The questions are essay-type and as such the first thing that you must make sure you do is to structure your answer properly (Introduction - Main body - Conclusion).

The first thing you'll be asked is to state the nature of your investigation. I suggest either:

- How and why does discharge of the River Kym change downstream?
- How and why does vegetation change across a sand dune?

You must have a complete knowledge of one of these two questions; you will be expected to give an in depth account regarding aspects of your investigation.

Within the two Section B essays, the examiner will be looking for:

- Two well structured essays.
- Essay plans included
- A **personal** account (if it was cold on the day, making recording data difficult, say so).
- An evaluation of..... (data collection, presentation, etc.)

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Other thoughts:

- Consider all the skills you've done throughout the course (i.e. Do you remember the choropleth map of Birmingham?).
- The examiner will expect you to be able to respond to a variety of data (graphs, maps, photos, etc.)
- You must learn the six stages of investigation.
- Don't get caught up with the concept of technology; GIS can be as simple as a map or using Google Earth to zoom in on an area.
- You will not be asked to conduct a statistical test. You will, however, need to be able to refer to statistical tests, i.e. the relevance of a result.

Statistics guide: Understand one method for:

- Central tendency,
- Test for difference
- Test for association

And be clear on the necessity of using 'significance tables'.

- Evaluation is the key to higher grades; consider "on the one hand this, on the other hand that".
- Secondary data not only includes maps, census data and textbooks, but also models and formulae.