Marr College Geography Department

Can-Do Checklist for Higher Geography

The Higher Geography exam consists of **one** paper. It is out of a total of 60 marks.
The total time for the paper is 2 hours 15 minutes.
You have just over 2 minutes per mark. Some questions will be answered quicker than others. It will be important to leave time to appropriately read the supplementary graphs and maps so as to fully answer the very last question *'Application of Geographical Skills'*.

Topics

Physical Environment Topics

This section is out of 15 marks.

Human Environment Topics

This section is out of 15 marks.

Global Issues Topics

There are five Global Issues topics. We study **only two** Global Issues (River Basin Management and Development & Health).
This section is out of 20 marks.

Application of Geographical Skills

There is one question in this section. It is marked out of 10.

- ✓ Use this can-do checklist to monitor and tick your understanding of topic content.

Common command words and their meaning

Explain

Questions which ask candidates to explain or suggest reasons for the cause or impact of
something, or require them to refer to causal connections and relationships: **candidates must do more than describe to gain credit here**. Where this occurs in a question asking about a landscape feature, candidates should refer to the processes leading to landscape formation.

Where candidates are provided with sources, they should make use of these and refer to them within their answer for full marks.

Where candidates provide a purely descriptive answer, or one where development is
limited, no more than half marks should be awarded for the question.

Analyse

Analysis involves identifying parts, the relationship between them, and their relationships with the whole. It can also involve drawing out and relating implications.

An analysis mark should be awarded where a candidate uses their knowledge and
understanding/a source, to identify relevant components (eg of an idea, theory, argument,
etc) and clearly show at least one of the following: links between different components,
links between component(s) and the whole, links between component(s) and related concepts, similarities and contradictions, consistency and inconsistency, different views/interpretations, possible consequences/implications, the relative importance of components, understanding of underlying order or structure.

Where candidates are asked to analyse they should identify parts of a topic or issue and refer to the interrelationships between, or impacts of, various factors, eg analyse the soil-forming properties which lead to the formation of a gley soil. Candidates would be expected to refer to how the various soil formatting properties contributed to the formation.

Evaluate
Where candidates are asked to evaluate, they should be making a judgement of the success, failure, or impact of something based on criteria. Candidates would be expected to briefly describe the strategy/project being evaluated before offering an evidenced conclusion.

Account for
Where candidates are being asked to account for, they are required to give reasons, often (but not exclusively) from a resource, eg for a change in trade figures, a need for water management, or differences in development between contrasting developing countries.

Discuss
These questions are looking for candidates to explore ideas about a project, or the impact of a change. Candidates will be expected to consider different views on an issue/argument. This might not be a balanced argument, but there should be a range of impacts or ideas within the answer.

To what extent
This asks candidates to consider the impact of a management strategy or strategies they have explored. Candidates would be expected to briefly describe the strategy/project being evaluated before offering an evidenced conclusion. Candidates do not need to offer an overall opinion based on a variety of strategies, but should assess each separately.

Physical Environment Topics

Atmosphere			
Explain why there is a net gain of solar energy in the Tropical latitudes and a net loss towards the Poles			
Explain, using a diagram how atmospheric circulation redistributes energy over the globe			
Explain factors which affect the amount of sunlight reflected from the earth's surface			
Account for the pattern of atmospheric circulation and global winds			
Account for the pattern of ocean currents shown on a world map			
With reference to the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone and the movement of air masses, account for the variations in West African rainfall distribution.			
Discuss the impact of the ITCZ			

Notes:

Questions to ask my teacher:

Hydrosphere			
draw a diagram to demonstrate the global hydrological cycle			
explain the movement of water through the global hydrological cycle shown diagram			
explain the movement of water within drainage basins.			
analyse the patterns shown on a river hydrograph			

Notes:

Questions to ask my teacher:

Biosphere			
analyse the properties of soils from a soil profile			
draw annotated diagrams to describe the properties of podsols, brown forest soils, and gley soils, referring to horizons, colour and texture			
Explain the effects of climate, relief and drainage on the formation of podsols, brown forest soils, and gley soils			

Notes:

Questions to ask my teacher:

Lithosphere			
Use an OS map to: identify features of glaciated upland landscapes **and** coastal landscapes, referring to specific named map features			
With the aid of annotated diagrams, **explain the processes** of glacial erosion: freeze thaw, plucking and abrasion *Exam hint: you must refer to, and explain the processes involved.*			
Glacial features			
corries			
u-shaped valleys			
arêtes and pyramidal peaks			
hanging valley			
roche moutonnée			
esker			
drumlin			
outwash plains			
terminal moraine.			
Glacial Upland Conflicts			
Account for the land uses in glaciated areas			
Discuss the conflicts which occur in glaciated areas			
Evaluate solutions to conflict in glaciated areas			
Coastal features:			
Explain the processes of coastal erosion: hydraulic action, corrosion, attrition *Exam hint: you must refer to, and explain the processes involved*			
headlands and bays			
wave-cut platform			
caves, arches, stacks and stumps			
explain the process of longshore drift			
spits			
sand bars and tombolos			
Coastal Conflicts			
Account for the land uses in coastal areas			
Discuss the conflicts which occur in coastal areas			
Evaluate solutions to conflict in coastal areas			
Mass Movements			
Explain the conditions and processes for rockfalls (scree slopes)			
Explain the conditions and processes for landslides (slumping)			

Notes:

Questions to ask my teacher:

Human Environments

Population Geography			
Understand terms relating to demographic trends such as: Birth Rate, Death Rate, Natural Increase Rate, Life Expectancy, Infant Mortality Rate			
Account for the structure of population pyramids			
Explain changes which have taken place through stages of the Demographic Transition Model			
Discuss the consequences of a rapidly and slowly growing population			
Explain why developing countries may find collection of census data more difficult than developed countries, and why the quality of data may be less reliable.			
With reference to any population migration between two named countries: explain the causes of **voluntary** migration (Poland to the UK) in terms of push and pull factors, and suggest the types of barriers which may make it difficult			
discuss the advantages and disadvantages which the migration has brought to both the losing country and the receiving country.			
explain the causes of **forced** migration (Rwanda) in terms of push and pull factors, and suggest the types of barriers which may make it difficult			
discuss the impacts of the forced migration			

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Questions to ask my teacher:

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Rural Geography			
Referring to the Sahel:			
Explain the **physical** and **human** factors which lead to land degradation			
Explain the processes of land degradation			
Explain the consequences of land degradation on the environment and people			
Explain methods used to conserve soil and manage the land to prevent land degradation			
Comment on the effectiveness of the strategies			

Notes:

Questions to ask my teacher:

Urban Geography			
Recognise Land Use zones on OS maps			
With reference to an EMDC (Glasgow)			
Explain the housing changes which have taken place in Glasgow's Inner City and evaluate the solutions			
Explain the need for traffic management and evaluate the solutions to traffic management			
With reference to an ELDC (Sao Paulo)			
Account for housing problems and comment upon the effectiveness of solutions			
Explain the need for traffic management and comment upon the effectiveness of solutions			

Notes:

Questions to ask my teacher:

Global Issues Topics

River Basin Management			
use a range of maps, climate graphs, tables and river hydrographs for **any** river basin in North America or Africa or Asia to explain why there is a water supply problem and why the water storage scheme is essential, and Referring in detail to the **named** river basin which you have studied (e.g. the Colorado River Basin):			
explain why there was a need for river basin management			
show how the physical characteristics of the basin have created both the need for and potential for water resource management, referring to factors such as climate, rock type and structure, landforms, soils and vegetation			
explain the physical and human factors which have to be considered when selecting sites for dams and reservoirs			
explain the social, economic, environmental and political benefits of the water control projects in the basin			
explain the social, economic, environmental and political adverse consequences of the water control projects in the basin			

Notes:

Questions to ask my teacher:

Development & Health			
Explain the advantages and disadvantages of single indicators of development and combined indicators of development			
Give reasons for the differences in levels of development between developing countries			
Explain the human and environmental causes of malaria			
Explain the methods used to try and control the spread of malaria and evaluate their effectiveness			
Explain examples of Primary Health Care strategies and evaluate their effectiveness			

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Questions to ask my teacher:

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