



Sixth Form Entrance Exams - Geography

Structure

Time: 45 minutes

There will be two sections. Section A (10 marks) and Section B (20 marks). We recommend you spend 15 minutes on Section A and 30 minutes on Section B.

Pupils will be marked on their ability to organise and structure information clearly, use specialist vocabulary where appropriate and use relevant examples and case studies.

Section A

Section A usually involves reading and interpreting a graph or diagram, pupils would then be asked to describe the graph and suggest some reasons or explanations for what it shows. Pupils are not expected to know the exact reasons but give logical and geographically based reasoning for their suggestions.

Section B

Pupils write an essay from a choice of 5 or 6 titles. Some examples of past essays can be found below.

1. How far do you agree that transport costs are of declining importance in determining the location of manufacturing industry?
2. Conservation is a luxury that Low Income Countries can't afford. To what extent do you agree with this statement?
3. To what extent does the physical environment affect economic development?
4. What can geographers contribute to the understanding and spread of human disease?
5. Examine the geographical impact on nations hosting major sporting events (such as The Olympics, The World Cup or The Commonwealth Games).
6. Discuss why some areas of Europe are experiencing population decline whilst others are growing.
7. Urban areas are the most sustainable way of living in the future. To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Common Questions

Do I need to have covered particular topics?

No, we ensure the exam is broad enough that whatever exam board or topics you have covered so far, you can all access the paper.

Are there any specific books you recommend reading?

No, the most important thing we emphasise is to keep up to date with recent events and have a good awareness of current global issues. Reading a broadsheet newspaper or listening to podcasts like 'The Economist' or 'The Rest is Politics' is very helpful for this. Equally following your own geographical passions and interests is key; read what excites you and this will come through in your writing.

Should I revise my case studies?

Specific case studies you have covered in class can be helpful in supporting a point you are making but be wary of just describing something you have learnt rather than answering the actual question.

What do you look for in an essay question?

Firstly, and most importantly you should answer the question set and try not to just give a lot of information you have learnt about the topic. Try to draw out any analysis or evaluation that would be relevant to the question. Finally, if you can, give a real life example or evidence to support the points you are making.