AQA A-LEVEL GEOGRAPHY
EXAM PAPER TOPIC TRACKER

PAPER 1:
PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

COVERING EXAMS SAT IN 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 AND 2025

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TOPIC	YEAR EXAMINED			
3.1.1 WATER AND CARBON CYCLES (SECTION A CORE)	**4 MARKS AO1**	**6 MARKS AO3**	**6 MARKS AO1 & AO2**	**20 MARKS AO1 & AO2**
3.1.1.1 WATER AND CARBON CYCLES AS NATURAL SYSTEMS				
Systems concepts and their application to the water cycle				
Systems concepts and their application to the carbon cycle				2019 Q1.4
3.1.1.2 THE WATER CYCLE				
Distribution and size of major water stores				
Flows and transfers in the water cycle at hillslope scale	2018 Q1.1 2019 Q1.1			
Flows and transfers in the water cycle at drainage basin scale	2018 Q1.1	2020 Q1.2	2019 Q1.3	
Flows and transfers in the water cycle at global scale	2018 Q1.1 2024 Q1.2			
Drainage basin system	2025 Q1.1		2019 Q1.3	
Concept of the water balance			2025 Q1.3	2018 Q1.4
Flood hydrograph and runoff variation	2023 Q1.1	2019 Q1.2 2024 Q1.3	2019 Q1.3	2021 Q1.4
Natural changes to the water cycle over time		2020 Q1.2		2018 Q1.4 2021 Q1.4
Human impacts on the water cycle – farming practices, land use changes, water abstraction	2024 Q1.1	2023 Q1.2	2019 Q1.3 2025 Q1.3	2018 Q1.4 2021 Q1.4
3.1.1.3 THE CARBON CYCLE				
Distribution and size of major carbon stores				2025 Q1.4
Flows and transfers in the carbon cycle at plant scale	2020 Q1.1			
Flows and transfers in the carbon cycle at sere scale	2020 Q1.1			
Flows and transfers in the carbon cycle at continental scale				
Natural variation in the carbon cycle (including wild fires, volcanic activity)				
Human impacts on the carbon cycle (including fossil fuel extraction and burning, farming, deforestation and land use change)		2018 Q1.2 2021 Q1.2 2025 Q1.2	2018 Q1.3 2022 Q3.4 & Q5.4 on Paper 2	2020 Q1.4 2022 Q1.4 2023 Q1.4 on Paper 2 2025 Q1.4

The carbon budget and the impact of the carbon cycle on land, oceans and atmosphere		2018 Q1.2 2025 Q1.2	2018 Q1.3 2021 Q1.3	2020 Q1.4 2022 Q1.4 2023 Q1.4
3.1.1.4 WATER, CARBON, CLIMATE AND LIFE ON EARTH				
The role of water and carbon supporting life on Earth			2020 Q1.3 2022 Q1.3 2025 Q1.3	
The role of feedbacks within and between cycles, linking to climate change	2021 Q1.1 2022 Q1.1	2022 Q1.2	2020 Q1.3 2022 Q1.3	2019 Q1.4
Human intervention in the carbon cycle to mitigate climate change			2018 Q1.3 2021 Q1.3 2023 Q1.3	2019 Q1.4 2022 Q1.4 2024 Q1.4
3.1.1.5 QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE SKILLS		2018 Q1.2 2019 Q1.2 2020 Q1.2 2021 Q1.2 2022 Q1.2 2023 Q1.2 2024 Q1.2 2025 Q1.2		
3.1.1.6 CASE STUDIES				
Case study of a tropical rainforest to illustrate key themes in water and carbon cycles				2023 Q1.4 2025 Q1.4
Case study of a tropical rainforest - human activity and environmental change				2018 Q1.4 2023 Q1.4 2024 Q1.4 2025 Q1.4
Case study of a river catchment at a local scale – impact of precipitation on stores and transfers				2021 Q1.4
Case study of a river catchment at a local scale – implications for sustainable water supply and/or flooding			2025 Q1.3	2021 Q1.4

TOPIC	YEAR EXAMINED			
3.1.2 HOT DESERT SYSTEMS AND LANDSCAPES (SECTION B OPTION)	**4 MARKS AO1**	**6 MARKS AO3**	**6 MARKS AO1 & AO2**	**20 MARKS AO1 & AO2**
3.1.2.1 DESERTS AS NATURAL SYSTEMS				
Systems concepts and their application to the development of desert landscapes				2021 Q2.4 2022 Q2.4
The concepts of landform and landscape and how they relate	2024 Q2.1			
The global distribution of mid and low latitude deserts and their margins	2020 Q2.1			
Characteristics of hot desert environments and their margins		2021 Q2.2 2022 Q2.2 2024 Q2.2 2025 Q2.2 2025 Q2.2		2019 Q2.4
Water balance and aridity index				2018 Q2.4
The causes of aridity: atmospheric processes relating to pressure, winds, continentality, relief and cold ocean currents	2018 Q2.1 2020 Q2.1			2019 Q2.4
3.1.2.2 SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES				
Sources of energy in hot desert environments: insolation, winds, runoff	2019 Q2.1		2019 Q2.3	2023 Q2.4
Sediment sources, cells and budgets	2025 Q2.1		2019 Q2.3 2020 Q2.3 2021 Q2.3	
Geomorphological processes: weathering, mass movement, erosion, transportation and deposition	2023 Q2.1		2018 Q2.3 2019 Q2.3 2020 Q2.3	2025 Q2.4
Distinctively arid geomorphological processes: weathering (thermal fracture, exfoliation, chemical weathering, block and granular disintegration)	2023 Q2.1		2019 Q2.3	2025 Q2.4
The role of wind: erosion, deflation and abrasion; transportation, suspension, saltation, surface creep; deposition	2021 Q2.1		2018 Q2.3 2019 Q2.3 2021 Q2.3 2022 Q2.3	2025 Q2.4
Sources of water in hot deserts: exogenous, endoreic and ephemeral; the episodic role of water; sheet flooding, channel flash flooding	2022 Q2.1		2018 Q2.3 2019 Q2.3 2020 Q2.3 2023 Q2.3	2018 Q2.4
3.1.2.3 ARID LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT IN CONTRASTING SETTINGS				
Origin and development of aeolian landforms in mid and low latitude deserts: deflation hollows,			2018 Q2.3 2021 Q2.3	2025 Q2.4

desert pavements, ventifacts, yardangs, zeugen, barchans and seif dunes			2022 Q2.3	
Origin and development of water landforms in mid and low latitude deserts: wadis, bahadas, pediments, playas, inselbergs	2024 Q 2.1		2019 Q2.3 2020 Q2.3	
Relationship between process, time, landforms and landscapes: characteristic desert landscapes				2024 Q2.4
3.1.2.4 DESERTIFICATION				
Changing extent and distribution of hot deserts over the last 10,000 years	2023 Q2.2	2024 Q2.2	2025 Q2.3	2020 Q2.4
Causes of desertification – climate change and human impact; distribution of areas at risk		2018 Q2.2 2020 Q2.2	2025 Q2.3	2018 Q2.4 2020 Q2.4 2021 Q2.4 2022 Q2.4
Impact on ecosystems, landscapes and populations		2018 Q2.2 2019 Q2.2 2020 Q2.2	2024 Q2.3 2025 Q2.3	2018 Q2.4 2021 Q2.4
Predicted climate change and the impacts, including alternative futures for local populations			2025 Q2.3	2018 Q2.4 2019 Q2.4 2020 Q2.4 2021 Q2.4
3.1.2.5 QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE SKILLS		2018 Q2.2 2019 Q2.2 2020 Q2.2 2021 Q2.2 2022 Q2.2 2023 Q2.2 2024 Q2.2 2025 Q2.2		
3.1.2.6 CASE STUDIES				
Case study of a hot desert environment illustrating key themes				2023 Q2.4 2024 Q2.4
Case study of a hot desert environment engaging with field data				
Case study at a local scale of a landscape where desertification has occurred to illustrate and analyse key themes of desertification			2025 Q2.3	2018 Q2.4 2019 Q2.4 2020 Q2.4 2022 Q2.4
Case study at a local scale of a landscape where desertification has occurred to evaluate human responses of resilience, mitigation and adaptation			2025 Q2.3	2018 Q2.4 2019 Q2.4

TOPIC	YEAR EXAMINED			
3.1.3 COASTAL SYSTEMS AND LANDSCAPES (SECTION B OPTION)	**4 MARKS AO1**	**6 MARKS AO3**	**6 MARKS AO1 & AO2**	**20 MARKS AO1 & AO2**
3.1.3.1 COASTS AS NATURAL SYSTEMS				
Systems concepts and their application to the development of coastal landscapes		2018 Q3.2		2021 Q3.4
The concepts of landform and landscape and how they relate				
3.1.3.2 SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES				
Sources of energy in coastal environments: winds, waves (constructive and destructive), currents and tides	2021 Q3.1 2023 Q3.2	2018 Q3.2		2018 Q3.4
Low energy and high energy coasts.				2025 Q2.4
Sediment sources, cells and budgets		2018 Q3.2 2019 Q3.2 2021 Q3.2		2018 Q3.4
Geomorphological processes: weathering, erosion, transportation, deposition	2025 Q3.1	2024 Q3.2	2022 Q3.3	2018 Q3.4 2023 Q3.4 2025 Q2.4
Marine coastal processes		2018 Q3.2 2019 Q3.2	2019 Q3.3 2020 Q3.3	2018 Q3.4 2023 Q3.4 2025 Q2.4
Sub-aerial weathering, mass movement and runoff	2020 Q3.1 2023 Q3.1		2020 Q3.2	2018 Q3.4 2023 Q3.4 2025 Q2.4
3.1.3.3 COASTAL LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT				
Origin and development of landforms and landscapes of coastal erosion, e.g. cliffs and wave cut platforms, cliff profile features including caves, arches and stacks; factors and processes in their development.	2020 Q3.1 2024 Q3.1		2020 Q3.3	2018 Q3.4 2025 Q2.4
Origin and development of landforms and landscapes of coastal deposition, e.g. beaches, simple and compound spits, tombolos, offshore bars, barrier beaches and islands and sand dunes; factors and processes in their development	2018 Q3.1 2025 Q3.1		2019 Q3.3 2021 Q3.3.	2018 Q3.4
Estuarine mudflat/saltmarsh environments and associated landscapes; factors and processes in their development	2019 Q3.1		2022 Q3.3	
Eustatic, isostatic and tectonic sea level change: major changes in sea level in the last 10,000 years		2020 Q3.2 2022 Q3.2 2025 Q3.2	2018 Q3.3	

Coastlines of emergence and submergence. Origin and development of associated landforms: raised beaches, marine platforms; rias, fjords, Dalmation coasts	2022 Q3.1		2018 Q3.3	
Recent and predicted climatic change and potential impact on coasts		2020 Q3.2 2025 Q3.2	2018 Q3.3	2019 Q3.4 2020 Q3.4 2024 Q3.4
The relationship between process, time, landforms and landscape in coastal settings				
3.1.3.4 COASTAL MANAGEMENT				
Human intervention in coastal landscapes. Traditional approaches to coastal flood and erosion risk: hard and soft engineering		2024 Q3.3	2023 Q3.3 2025 Q3.3	2019 Q3.4 2021 Q3.4 2022 Q3.4 2023 Q3.4
Sustainable approaches to coastal flood risk and coastal erosion management: shoreline management/integrated coastal zone management		2024 Q3.3	2023 Q3.3 2025 Q3.3	2019 Q3.4 2021 Q3.4 2022 Q3.4
3.1.3.5 QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE SKILLS		2018 Q3.2 2019 Q3.2 2020 Q3.2 2021 Q3.2 2022 Q3.2 2023 Q3.2 2024 Q3.2 2025 Q3.2		
3.1.3.6 CASE STUDIES				
Case study of coastal environment(s) at a local scale to illustrate and analyse fundamental coastal processes, their landscape outcomes as set out above and engage with field data				2018 Q3.4 2020 Q3.4 2023 Q3.4 2024 Q3.4 2025 Q2.4
Case study of coastal environment(s) at a local scale to illustrate and analyse challenges represented in their sustainable management			2025 Q3.3	2019 Q3.4 2021 Q3.4
Case study of a contrasting coastal landscape beyond the UK to illustrate and analyse how it presents risks and opportunities for human occupation and development				
Case study of a contrasting coastal landscape beyond the UK to illustrate and evaluate human responses of resilience, mitigation and adaptation				2019 Q3.4 2021 Q3.4 2022 Q3.4

TOPIC	YEAR EXAMINED			
3.1.3 GLACIAL SYSTEMS AND LANDSCAPES (SECTION B OPTION)	**4 MARKS AO1**	**6 MARKS AO3**	**6 MARKS AO1 & AO2**	**20 MARKS AO1 & AO2**
3.1.4.1 GLACIERS AS NATURAL SYSTEMS				
Systems concepts and their application to the development of glaciated landscapes				2021 Q4.4
The concepts of landform and landscape and how they relate				
3.1.4.2 THE NATURE AND DISTRIBUTION OF COLD ENVIRONMENTS				
The global distribution of cold environments				
Physical characteristics of cold environments. Climate, soils and vegetation (and their interaction)		2025 Q4.2	2021 Q4.3	
The global distribution of past and present cold environments		2023 Q4.2		
3.1.4.3 SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES				
Glacial systems including glacial budgets		2020 Q4.2 2022 Q4.2		2018 Q4.4 2019 Q4.4
Ablation and accumulation – historical patterns of ice advance and retreat		2019 Q4.2 2021 Q4.2 2024 Q4.2	2018 Q4.3	2018 Q4.4 2019 Q4.4
Warm and cold based glaciers: characteristics and development				
Geomorphological processes – weathering; ice movement; erosion; transportation and deposition	2018 Q4.1 2020 Q4.1 2023 Q4.1 2025 Q4.1		2018 Q4.3 2022 Q4.3	2023 Q4.4 2025 Q4.4
Fluvioglacial processes: meltwater, erosion, transportation and deposition			2018 Q4.3	2018 Q4.4 2025 Q4.4
Periglacial features and processes: permafrost, active layer and mass movement	2025 Q4.1	2018 Q4.2 2025 Q4.2	2019 Q4.3 2020 Q4.3 2021 Q4.3	2018 Q4.4 2025 Q4.4
3.1.4.4 GLACIATED LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT				
Origin and development of glaciated landscapes	2019 Q4.1			2024 Q4.4
Erosional and depositional landforms: corries, arêtes, glacial troughs	2024 Q4.1		2018 Q4.3 2022 Q4.3	
Fluvioglacial landforms of erosion and deposition: meltwater channels, kames, eskers, outwash plains. Characteristic fluvioglacial landscapes	2022 4.1		2018 Q4.3	2023 Q4.4

Periglacial landforms: patterned ground, ice wedges, pingos, blockfields, solifluction, lobes, terracettes, thermokarst. Characteristic periglacial landscapes	2025 Q4.1		2019 Q4.3 2021 Q4.3	
Relationship between process, time, landforms and landscapes in glaciated settings: characteristic glaciated and periglacial landscapes				
3.1.4.5 HUMAN IMPACTS ON COLD ENVIRONMENTS				
Concept of environmental fragility. Human impacts on fragile cold environments over time and at a variety of scales			2025 Q4.3	2018 Q4.4 2019 Q4.4 2022 Q4.4
Recent and prospective impact of climate change		2019 Q4.2 2020 Q4.2	2023 Q4.4 2025 Q4.3	2020 Q4.4 2022 Q4.4 2024 Q4.4
Management of cold environments at present and in alternative possible futures		2024 Q4.3	2024 Q4.3	2020 Q4.4 2021 Q4.4 2022 Q4.4
3.1.4.6 QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE SKILLS		2018 Q4.2 2019 Q4.2 2020 Q4.2 2021 Q4.2 2022 Q4.2 2023 Q4.2 2024 Q4.2		
3.1.4.7 CASE STUDIES				
Case study of glaciated environment(s) at a local scale to illustrate and analyse glacial processes, their landscape outcomes and engage with field data				2025 Q4.4
Case study of a contrasting glaciated landscape from beyond the UK to illustrate and analyse how it presents challenges and opportunities for human occupation and development				2018 Q4.4 2019 Q4.4 2020 Q4.4 2021 Q4.4
Case study of a contrasting glaciated landscape from beyond the UK to illustrate and evaluate human responses of resilience, mitigation and adaptation				2018 Q4.4 2019 Q4.4 2020 Q4.4 2021 Q4.4

TOPIC	YEAR EXAMINED			
3.1.5 HAZARDS (SECTION C OPTION)	**MCQS* / 4 MARKS AO1**	**6 MARKS AO3**	**9 MARKS AO1 & AO2**	**20 MARKS AO1 & AO2**
3.1.5.1 THE CONCEPT OF HAZARD IN A GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT				
Nature, forms and potential impacts of natural hazards		2020 Q5.2	2020 Q5.4	2018 Q5.8 2023 Q5.5
Hazard perception and its economic and cultural determinants				2018 Q5.8
Characteristic human responses – fatalism prediction, adjustment/adaptation, mitigation, management and risk sharing - and their relationship to hazard incidence, intensity, magnitude, distribution and level of development	2023 Q5.1			2018 Q5.8 2019 Q5.8
The Park model of human response to hazards				2019 Q5.8
The Hazard Management Cycle	2021 Q5.1			2019 Q5.8 2024 Q5.5
3.1.5.2 PLATE TECTONICS				
Earth structure and internal energy sources				
Plate tectonic theory of crustal evolution: tectonic plates; plate movement; gravitational sliding; ridge push, slab pull; convection current and seafloor spreading	2019 Q5.3 2024 Q5.1			2021 Q5.5
Processes and associated landforms at destructive plate margins	2018 Q5.1 2019 Q5.2 2025 Q5.1			2021 Q5.5
Processes and associated landforms at constructive plate margins	2024 Q5.1			2021 Q5.5
Processes and associated landforms at conservative plate margins				2021 Q5.5
Magma plumes and their relationship to plate movement				
3.1.5.3 VOLCANIC HAZARDS				
The nature of vulcanicity and its relation to plate tectonics: forms of volcanic hazard: nuée ardentes, laval flows, mudflows, pyroclastic and ash fallout, gases/acid rain, tephra.	2022 Q5.1	2019 Q5.5		2022 Q5.5
Spatial distribution, magnitude, frequency, regularity and predictability of volcanic events	2019 Q5.4 2025 Q5.1	2018 Q5.5 2021 Q5.2	2018 Q5.6 2019 Q5.7	2022 Q5.5
Impacts of volcanic events		2019 Q5.5 2021 Q5.2	2018 Q5.6 2019 Q5.7 2023 Q5.4	2022 Q5.5
Short- and long-term responses to volcanic events	2018 Q5.2		2019 Q5.7 2024 Q5.3	

Impacts and human responses as evidenced by a recent volcanic event			2018 Q5.6 2019 Q5.7 2024 Q5.3	
3.1.5.4 SEISMIC HAZARDS				
The nature of seismicity and its relation to plate tectonics: forms of seismic hazard: earthquakes, shockwaves, tsunamis, liquefaction, landslides	2018 Q5.4 2020 Q5.1	2018 Q5.5 2025 Q5.2	2020 Q5.4	2019 Q5.8 2022 Q5.5
Spatial distribution, randomness, magnitude, frequency, regularity, predictability of seismic events		2018 Q5.5 2025 Q5.2	2020 Q5.4	2019 Q5.8 2022 Q5.5
Impacts of seismic events			2020 Q5.4 2021 Q5.3	2019 Q5.8 2022 Q5.5
Short- and long-term responses to seismic events		2022 Q5.2	2021 Q5.3 2023 Q5.3 2024 Q5.3	2019 Q5.8
Impacts and human responses as evidenced by a recent seismic event			2024 Q5.3	2019 Q5.8
3.1.5.5 STORM HAZARDS				
The nature of tropical storms and their underlying causes. Forms of storm hazard: high winds, storm surges, coastal flooding, river flooding and landslides.			2018 Q5.7 2019 Q5.7 2020 Q5.3	2020 Q5.5
Spatial distribution, magnitude, frequency, regularity, predictability of storm events		2024 Q5.2.	2018 Q5.7 2019 Q5.7 2020 Q5.3 2022 Q5.3 2024 Q5.4	2020 Q5.5
Impacts of storm events			2018 Q5.7 2019 Q5.7 2020 Q5.3 2022 Q5.3 2025 Q5.3	
Short- and long-term responses to storm events			2018 Q5.7 2019 Q5.7 2020 Q5.3 2022 Q5.3 2025 Q5.3	2020 Q5.5
Impacts and human responses as evidenced by two recent tropical storms in contrasting areas of the world			2018 Q5.7 2019 Q5.7 2025 Q5.3	
3.1.5.6 FIRES IN NATURE				
Nature of wildfires. Conditions favouring intense wildfires: vegetation type, fuel characteristics, climate and recent weather and fire behaviour. Causes of fires: natural and human agency	2018 Q5.3	2023 Q5.2	2019 Q5.6 2022 Q5.4	2020 Q5.5
Impacts: primary/secondary, environmental, social, economic, political				
Short- and long-term responses to wildfire events	2019 Q5.1		2019 Q5.6	2020 Q5.5

			2021 Q5.4 2022 Q5.4 2025 Q5.4	
Impacts and human responses as evidenced by a recent wildfire event			2025 Q5.4	2024 Q5.5
3.1.5.7 CASE STUDIES				
Case study of a multi-hazardous environment beyond the UK to illustrate and analyse the nature of the hazards and the social, economic and environmental risks presented				2018 Q5.8 2025 Q5.5
Case study of a multi-hazardous environment beyond the UK to illustrate and analyse how human qualities and responses such as resilience, adaptation, mitigation and management contribute to its continuing human occupation				2018 Q5.8 2025 Q5.5
Case study at a local scale of a specified place in a hazardous setting to illustrate the physical nature of the hazard				2023 Q5.5
Case study at a local scale of a specified place in a hazardous setting to analyse how the economic, social and political character of its community reflects the presence of the hazard and the community's response to the risk				

** 4 x 1-mark MCQs in option topics (Section C) were replaced by 1 x 4-mark Q from 2020 exam series onwards.*

TOPIC	YEAR EXAMINED			
3.1.6 ECOSYSTEMS UNDER STRESS (SECTION C OPTION)	**MCQS* / 4 MARKS AO1**	**6 MARKS AO3**	**9 MARKS AO1 & AO2**	**20 MARKS AO1 & AO2**
3.1.6.1 ECOSYSTEMS AND SUSTAINABILITY				
The concept of biodiversity, local and global trends in biodiversity		2024 Q6.2	2020 Q6.4 2025 Q6.4	2018 Q6.8
Causes, rates and potential impacts of declining biodiversity		2018 Q6.5 2023 Q6.3	2023 Q6.4 2023 Q6.4 2025 Q6.4	2018 Q6.8
Ecosystems and their importance for human populations in the light of continuing population growth and economic development. Human populations in ecosystem development and sustainability		2020 Q6.2	2021 Q6.4	2018 Q6.8 2019 Q6.8
3.1.6.2 ECOSYSTEMS AND PROCESSES				
Nature of ecosystems: their structure, energy flows, trophic levels, food chains and food webs	2019 Q6.2			
Application of systems concepts to ecosystems			2024 Q6.3	
Concepts of biomass and net primary production	2018 Q6.3 2019 Q6.3 2023 Q6.1			
Concepts of succession: climatic climax, sub-climax and plagio-climax	2018 Q6.2 2019 Q6.1 2020 Q6.1 2022 Q6.1 2025 Q6.1		2018 Q6.6 2019 Q6.6	
Mineral nutrient cycling	2019 Q6.4 2024 Q6.1		2022 Q6.4 2025 Q6.3	
Nature of terrestrial ecosystems	2020 Q6.1	2019 Q6.5	2018 Q6.6 2019 Q6.6	
Terrestrial ecosystems response to changes in one or more of their components or environmental controls.			2018 Q6.6 2019 Q6.6 2022 Q6.4 2025 Q6.3	2021 Q6.5
Factors influencing the changing of ecosystems, including climate change and human exploitation of the global environment		2020 Q6.2	2018 Q6.6 2019 Q6.6 2022 Q6.3 2024 Q6.3 2025 Q6.3	2018 Q6.8 2020 Q6.5
3.1.6.3 BIOMES				
The concept of the biome. The global distribution of major terrestrial biomes		2025 Q6.2 2025 Q6.2		2021 Q6.5
The characteristics, ecological responses, human activity and development issues in the tropical		2022 Q6.2	2020 Q6.4	2021 Q6.5 2023 Q6.5

rainforest biome				
The characteristics, ecological responses, human activity and development issues in the savanna grassland biome	2018 Q6.1		2020 Q6.4 2021 Q6.4 2022 Q6.3 2025 Q6.4	2018 Q6.8 2023 Q6.4
3.1.6.4 ECOSYSTEMS IN THE BRITISH ISLES OVER TIME				
Succession and climate climax as illustrated by lithoseres and hydroseres			2022 Q6.4	
The characteristics of the climatic climax: temperate deciduous woodland biome			2022 Q6.4	
The effects of human activity on succession in the British Isles, illustrated in one plagioclimax	2021 Q6.1		2018 Q6.6 2019 Q6.6 2025 Q6.3	2024 Q6.5
3.1.6.5 MARINE ECOSYSTEMS				
The distribution and main characteristics of coral reef ecosystems. Environmental conditions associated with reef development.	2018 Q6.4		2018 Q6.7 2019 Q6.7 2020 Q6.3 2021 Q6.3	
With reference to a named, located coral reef: factors in the health and survival of reefs: natural; human activity and impact; future prospects		2021 Q6.2	2018 Q6.7 2019 Q6.7 2020 Q6.3 2021 Q6.3 2024 Q6.4 2025 Q6.5	
3.1.6.6 LOCAL ECOSYSTEMS				
The main characteristics of a distinctive local ecosystem				2019 Q6.8
Ecological responses to the climate, soil and soil moisture budget of a distinctive local ecosystem				2019 Q6.8
Local factors in ecological development and change			2023 Q6.3	2019 Q6.8
The impacts of change and measures to manage these impacts in local ecosystems. Conservation strategies and their implementation in specific settings			2023 Q6.3	2019 Q6.8 2022 Q6.5
3.1.6.7 CASE STUDIES				
Case study of a specified region experiencing ecological change to illustrate and analyse the nature of the change and the reasons for it			2023 Q6.4	2020 Q6.5
Case study of a specified region experiencing ecological change to illustrate and analyse how the economic, social and political character of its community reflects its ecological setting and how the community is responding to change				2020 Q6.5
Case study of a specified ecosystem at a local scale to illustrate and analyse key themes set out above, including the nature and properties of the				2019 Q6.8 2022 Q6.5

ecosystem and human impact upon it				
Case study of a specified ecosystem at a local scale to illustrate and analyse key themes set out above, including the challenges and opportunities presented in its sustainable development				2019 Q6.8 2022 Q6.5

** 4 x 1-mark MCQs in option topics (Section C) were replaced by 1 x 4-mark Q from 2020 exam series onwards.*

GEOGRAPHICAL SKILLS	YEAR EXAMINED			
	MCQS*/ 4 MARKS	6 MARKS	9 MARKS	20 MARKS
3.4.2.1 CORE SKILLS				
Use and annotation of illustrative and visual material base maps, sketch maps, OS maps (at a variety of scales), diagrams, graphs, field sketches, **photographs***, geospatial, geo-located and digital imagery		2018 Q1.3 2018 Q2.3* 2018 Q3.2* 2018 Q3.3 2018 Q4.3* 2018 Q6.5 2019 Q2.3* 2019 Q3.2 2019 Q3.3* 2019 Q4.2 2019 Q4.3* 2019 Q5.5* 2020 Q2.3* 2020 Q3.3* 2020 Q4.3* 2020 Q6.2 2021 Q1.2 2021 Q1.3 2021 Q2.2 2021 Q2.3* 2021 Q3.2 2021 Q3.3* 2021 Q4.2* 2021 Q4.3* 2021 Q5.2 2021 Q6.2 2022 Q1.2 2022 Q2.2 2022 Q2.3* 2022 Q3.2 2022 Q3.3* 2022 Q4.2 2022 Q4.3* 2022 Q5.2 2022 Q6.2 2023 Q1.2 2023 Q3.3* 2023 Q6.3* 2024 Q2.3 2024 Q3.2 2024 Q3.3 2024 Q6.3 2025 Q1.3 2025 Q2.3 2025 Q3.3	2019 Q5.6* 2019 Q6.6* 2020 Q5.3* 2020 Q6.3 2021 Q5.3 2022 Q5.3 2024 Q6.3 2025 Q5.3 2025 Q6.3	

		2025 Q4.3		
Literacy – use of factual text and discursive/creative material and coding techniques when analysing text		2025 Q3.3	2025 Q6.3	
Numeracy – use of number, measure and measurement		Almost all 6-mark AO3 qs Some AO1 and AO2 figure qs	Some AO1 and AO2 figure qs	
3.4.2.2 CARTOGRAPHIC SKILLS				
Maps with located proportional symbols		2018 Q6.5 2019 Q3.2 2020 Q3.2 2022 Q6.2 2024 Q5.3	2024 Q5.3	
Maps showing movement – flow line, desire lines and trip lines				
Maps showing spatial patterns – choropleth, isoline and dot maps		2018 Q3.2 2018 Q3.3 2018 Q5.5 2019 Q1.3 2019 Q4.2 2019 Q5.5 2020 Q1.3 2020 Q2.2 2020 Q3.2 2020 Q6.2 2021 Q2.2 2021 Q3.2 2021 Q4.2 2021 Q5.2 2021 Q6.2 2022 Q1.2 2022 Q2.2 2022 Q3.2 2022 Q4.2 2022 Q5.2 2022 Q6.2 2023 Q5.2 2023 Q5.3 2024 Q1.2 2024 Q1.3 2024 Q2.2 2024 Q5.2 2025 Q2.2 2025 Q5.2	2020 Q5.3 2020 Q6.3	

3.4.2.3 GRAPHICAL SKILLS

Line graphs – simple, comparative, compound and divergent		2018 Q2.2 2018 Q4.2 2018 Q6.5 2019 Q1.2 2019 Q4.2 2019 Q6.5 2020 Q1.2 2020 Q4.2 2020 Q5.2 2021 Q5.2 2022 Q4.2 2024 Q4.2 2024 Q6.2 2025 4.2	2019 Q6.6 2022 Q6.3	
Bar graphs – simple, comparative, compound and divergent		2018 Q1.2 2018 Q2.2 2018 Q6.5 2018 Q6.5 2019 Q1.2 2019 Q1.3 2019 Q2.2 2019 Q3.2 2019 Q6.5 2020 Q2.2 2020 Q4.2 2020 Q5.2 2021 Q1.2 2021 Q5.2 2022 Q1.3 2023 Q1.3 2023 Q3.3 2023 Q5.2 2023 Q6.2 2024 Q3.2 2025 Q1.2 2025 Q3.2 2025 Q 6.2	2020 Q6.3	
Scatter graphs and the use of best fit line		2022 Q4.2		
Pie charts and proportional divided circles		2018 Q6.8 2022 Q6.2 2024 Q3.2 2025 Q2.3	2021 Q6.3 2022 Q6.3	
Triangular graphs				
Graphs with logarithmic scales				
Dispersion diagrams		2024 Q1.2		

3.4.2.4 STATISTICAL SKILLS				
Measures of central tendency – mean, mode, median		Most 6- mark AO3 qs involve figures using mean data		
Measures of dispersion – range, inter-quartile range and standard deviation		2023 Q2.2 2023 Q3.2 2023 Q4.2		
Inferential and relational statistical techniques – Spearman's rank correlation, Chi-square test and the application of significance tests		Chi-Square test – see SAM Q3.2		

Note: The third question in the core topics are 6-mark, AO1 and AO2 questions (no AO3 marks).