

GCSE Syllabus

Pressures on the Physical Environment

Plate Tectonics

- The **structure** of the earth: include a description of the crust, mantle and cores.
- The World's **tectonic Plates**.
- **Evidence** of plate movement
- **Causes** of Plate Movement.
- **Types** of plate margin
- Explanation of **constructive, destructive, collision and passive margins**.
- Causes of **earthquakes**. How they are measured. The consequences of Earthquakes.
- How Earthquakes are managed.
- All of the above to be studied through a case study: Kobe and or Colombia
- Causes of **volcanoes**: Plate margins and Hot Spots
- Consequences of an eruption: primary and secondary
- Attempts to control the problems.
- All of the above to be studied through case studies: Mt. St. Helens and or Montserrat.
- Why people continue to live in **hazardous areas**: economic, mineral extraction, tourism, social and agricultural.
- Case study: "Is California worth the risk?"

Tourism

- Different **types** of tourism.
- Reasons for growth in tourism
- Changing **patterns** of tourism within the uk.
- Growth of weekend breaks and decline of **traditional seaside resorts**
- **Tourism in LEDCS**. Reasons for its growth to incl. affluence, cost, type (Safari). The growth of ecotourism. The consequences of its development incl. culture, economic, environmental. Strategies to manage the effects of Tourism (amount of tourism and the damage to the environment).
- All of the above considered with reference to Kenya.
- **Ecotourism** – definition and ideals.
- Tourism in the **Mediterranean**. The reasons for its growth incl. Package holidays, air travel, cost. The effects of tourism on the culture, natural environment and economy. With reference to Torremolinos.
- Features of **limestone scenery** in the Yorkshire Dales and processes of formation.
- To include limestone pavement, swallow holes, gorges, limestone cliffs, disappearing streams and features of limestone weathering especially explain carbonation.
- Features of **glaciation** in the lake district and processes of formation.
- To include cirques, aretes, hanging valleys, glacial troughs, ribbon lakes, truncated spurs, moraines. Processes of glacial erosion (abrasion and plucking) and deposition must be explained. Specific reference to the Lake District
- *Use of OS maps to extract information. Revision of simple map reading*

National Parks

- Distribution and definition.
- Reasons for their growth must include transport access, proximity to urban areas, increased leisure time.
- Growth of honey pot sites.
- The effects of recreational pressure on the physical environment, including local employment and housing, land use conflict, traffic management, different types of pollution and footpath erosion.
- With specific reference to the Lake District.
- Alternative strategies used to manage honey pot sites including planning controls, park and ride, conservation. The advantages and disadvantages of these strategies. With specific reference to the Lake District.
- *Use of ICT to create a power point presentation case study.*

Population Change

- **Definitions and explanations** of birth rate, death rate, natural increase, natural decrease, immigration, emigration.
- Illustrate above with reference to **model of demographic transition** to explain concept of demographic change. Reference to UK and China
- **Age structure** of population.
- How age structure changes with demographic change. Explain with reference to population pyramids. UK and China.
- The factors that cause **changes in population**.
- These should include natural disasters, disease, level of health care, importance of education, customs and religion.

- The **consequences of population change**.
- This should include how contrasting population growth rates and age structures have impacts on people and resources, including unemployment, dependency, prejudice, service provision and food supplies.
- Should take an LEDC and MEDC example.
- Strategies to manage the causes and effects of population change.
- In both an China (**anti-natalist**) and the UK.
- Issues to be covered include birth control, agricultural reform, employment, provision of health services, education and role of aid agencies (non-governmental organisations).

Rural/Urban Migration

- **Rural to urban migration** in LEDCs.
- Definition of rural depopulation and urbanisation and urban growth Push (including natural hazards and failing agriculture) and pull factors (including perceived benefits of city – employment, education, housing, services etc.).
- The **consequences of this migration**, to include the rural area and loss of population as well as the growth of shanty towns and pressure on urban services, and also pollution, crime, unemployment, poor housing and services.
- The **strategies** (advantages and disadvantages) used to try and **improve urban housing** and welfare in LEDC cities. This should include self-help housing, local authority housing, better informal industry provision, and efforts at reform in the countryside.
- All of the above should be tied in with a case study e.g **Favelas** of Rio.
- Use and annotation of photographs

Pressure at the Rural-Urban Fringe

- **Developments on the rural urban fringe**.
- These include, housing developments, transport developments, leisure facilities and suburbanised villages.
- In the above, the **consequences of change** for people, decision makers, businesses must be included – especially land use changes, congestion and pollution
- To include a case-study
- The **role of pressure groups** such as CPRE, FOE and government. Strategies to manage these conflicts.
- This should include consideration of the **green belt policy**, new rural settlements, use of brownfield sites, environmental protection, redevelopment of urban areas as a contrasting policy.
- Advantages and disadvantages should be considered as well as attention paid to the issues and conflicting values and attitudes.
- Empathy with a variety of people of differing attitudes
- The process of counter-urbanisation. The push factors of urban areas and pull factors of rural areas, including lower land values less traffic congestion and a better quality of life.
- Location of offices and tendency to decentralise to greenfield sites.

Changing city and town

- Changing **urban land use** in and around the city centre.
- This should focus on changes to the **inner city** – population decline, unemployment, loss of industry, decline of housing environment and reasons for these changes (historical, planners decisions of 1950s, 1960s.
- Industry moving due to better accessibility on edge of city, growth of high-tech industry requiring different location requirements
- **Strategies to improve city and town centres**.
- These should include improving public transport eg Manchester metro, **traffic management** pedestrianisation (New Street, Birmingham),
- **Redevelopment and regeneration** (eg Heartlands, Docklands).
- Advantages and disadvantages of these strategies should be included.
- **Changes to the CBD**. This should include growth of **out of town shopping ce**

Managing economic development

- The distribution and features of **different levels of economic development**
- **Indicators** such as GDP and GNP, population characteristics, literacy and industrial structure (% in manufacturing, agriculture etc).
- Use or secondary statistical data to describe a countries level of development.
- The **causes of contrasting levels of development** including technology and agricultural and mineral wealth.
- Comparison should be made between levels of economic development in an LECD, NIC and MEDC.
- The **consequences of different and changing levels of economic development** for the people and economies of these countries.
- The effects on quality of life, employment and opportunities should all be considered.
- The **strategies to reduce gap** between rich and poor countries.
- **Advantages and disadvantages** should be considered.
- Strategies to consider include role of TNCs: foreign aid, trade agreements, appropriate technology

Resource depletion

- **Concept of natural (renewable) and non-renewable resources.**
- **Reasons for depletion** of non-renewable resources. All with reference to Brazil (Amazonia).
- The **contrasting consequences of resource depletion** for people, economies and the environment in LEDCs and MEDCs, including shortages, increasing costs, loss of exports and environmental damage. Look at effects in contrasting countries.
- **Sustainable development** strategies for managing depletion, including renewable energy, appropriate technology, and recycling. The role of government and NGOs. Advantages and disadvantages of each strategy.
- **Global warming, acid rain and ozone depletion** as a result of economic development.
- The **causes** of each of the above but must focus on deforestation and pollution.
- The **consequences** for people, global development, and the natural environment, including the effects of , sea level rise, human health, damage to ecosystems, agriculture, and with specific reference to climate change and its effects including desertification.
- **Strategies for managing economic development**
- Including **international agreements**, banning CFCs, using appropriate and new technology.
- The advantages and disadvantages of these strategies. All must be covered, but one in detail.
- The **role of international pressure groups**.

Water and food supplies

- Natural and human **causes of poor water supplies** to include low and unreliable rainfall, pollution, political issues.
- The **impacts of poor water supplies** incl. Agriculture, health, welfare issues.
- **Strategies to improve supplies.**
- Case study in both MEDC (UK) and LEDC (incl. Storage, **intermediate technology**, distribution, desalinisation)
- **Distribution of areas with poor water and food supplies** and their links with drought and famine.
- **Desertification**- causes and location
- Natural and human **causes of poor food supplies** incl. Rainfall, agriculture, soil erosion, political issues.
- **Impacts on human life** incl. Malnutrition, famine, health.
- **Strategies to improve food supplies** incl. Intermediate technology, political issues, **green revolution**.
- The role of international and national agencies eg Oxfam.

Weather Hazards

- The **causes tropical storms** and flooding in Bangladesh.
- To include the formation of tropical storms, high rainfall, tidal surges, the nature of the land surface rock type etc. and human factors such as deforestation and urbanisation.
- The **effects of such storms** and flooding. Must include the **secondary effects of flooding** e.g. loss of livelihood, spread of disease and food shortages.
- **Strategies to manage the risks and effects** of storms, including forecasting and emergency relief.
- Strategies to deal with the causes and effects of flooding incl. River management and flood control
- The **causes of mid latitude depressions and flooding in the UK** (MEDC). To include the nature of land surface, rock type and human factors.
- **Consequences** of mid-latitude depressions
- **Strategies to manage the risks and effects** of storms, including forecasting and emergency relief.
- Strategies to deal with the causes and effects of flooding incl. River management and flood control.
- Case Study Lynton
- Case Study Management- Mississippi
- The **basic principles of the Hydrological Cycle**.
- The **features of a drainage basin**. An introduction to **flood hydrographs**.
- The effect of drainage basin of the Flood hydrograph.
- **Anticyclones**
- The weather associated with them.
- **Problems with prolonged periods** of anticyclonic weather.
- **Benefits** of anticyclonic weather