

## How to get an A/A\* in GCSE Geography.docx

### Exam Board Criteria A\*/A

1. Students recall, select and communicate detailed knowledge of places, environments, concepts, and locations at a range of scales.
2. Students use geographical terminology accurately and appropriately.
3. Students apply appropriate knowledge and understanding of a wide range of geographical concepts, processes and patterns in a variety of both familiar and unfamiliar physical and human contexts.
4. Students recognise and understand complex relationships between people and the environment, identifying and evaluating current problems and issues.
5. Students must be involved in making perceptive and informed geographical decisions.
6. Students understand how these can contribute to a future that is sustainable.

	<b>% in GCSE</b>
<b>AO1:</b> Recall, select and communicate their knowledge and understanding of places, environments and concepts.	30–40%
<b>AO2:</b> Apply their knowledge and understanding in familiar and unfamiliar contexts.	30–40%
<b>AO3:</b> Select and use a variety of skills, techniques and technologies to investigate, analyse and evaluate questions and issues.	30–40%

In GCSE Geography - you also need to understand the assessment objectives - AOs - there are three:

### What It Means

1. A third of your marks will come from case study knowledge questions - which require you to have detailed place specific understanding of the places we study. You may need to be able to contrast or compare different places e.g. different levels of development.
2. You know key terms for every topic - and you use them in all writing without being asked, but especially in 4, 6 and 8 mark questions or the 15 mark Q at the end of Unit 3
3. You know the names of - and can explain - theories we use in Geography to say why things are like they are - e.g. Rostow's Modernisation theory, Malthus, Plate tectonics, Sunspot Theory and the Enhanced Greenhouse Effect.
4. You can reach conclusions for "Examine" exam questions, you can weigh up positives and negatives or costs and benefits, you can look at issues using a range of viewpoints to do this - for example - economic, social, environmental. When looking at issues you can distinguish the causes and the effects/impacts. You can explain how different groups and organisations will be involved in situations.
5. You will need - mostly in Unit 3 - to use evidence to support decision making - and include this evidence in your answers. You will also need to show an ability to choose a range of evidence and use it to come to clear decisions about an issue - when presented with several alternative options.
6. You must know what sustainability means - in terms of the environment, but also for people in a place (socially) and their financial position (economic)

You must remember that A and A\* Grades usually go to students **scoring 80% or more** in the exams for each question type this means you must aim to get:

2 markers =	2/2 marks	6 markers =	5/6 marks
4 markers =	3 or 4/4 marks	8 markers (plus 3 SPG) =	6/8 marks - plus 2/3 for the spelling and punctuation
15 marker on Unit 3 (section C question) (inc 3 for SPG)			12/15 plus 2/3 for SPG

### Useful Links

- "GCSE Geography Revision" <https://classroom.google.com/c/MjY3NjgxNDFa> - on the Google Classroom - code needed or an invitation from Mr Blackmore. Includes ideas for extension tasks and exam materials. Full past papers, markschemes and examiners reports here too for 2014 - last summers session.
- <http://geographyrevision.zz.vc/> An amazing website that summarises case studies and exam questions for our course,
- <http://www.gcsegeography.co.uk/home> Another free revision site for our course

