

Edexcel GCE

Geography

Advanced

Unit 4: Geographical Research

Advance Information: Research Focus

January 2011

Paper Reference

6GE04/01

Instructions

- Select **one option**, based on the research you have carried out for Unit 4.
- You should use information contained in the research focus to prepare for the Unit 4 examination.
- The **research focus** will give you an idea of the sort of question you will need to answer in the examination for Unit 4.
- To help you narrow down your last minute research, the focus is divided into:
 - **Explore**, meaning the background concepts, processes, theories and models involved where relevant.
 - **Research**, meaning the geographical places, case studies and examples illustrating these.
- You will be expected to produce a **report**, with clear sub-sections and referencing.
- Please consult the accompanying generic mark scheme, also to be found on the Edexcel website.

Information

- Edexcel website (www.edexcel.com).

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OPTION 1: Tectonic Activity and Hazards

- **Explore** the varying impact of both volcanic (extrusive and intrusive) and seismic processes on landscapes.
 - **Research** different locations to draw out the importance of tectonic activity in creating contrasting landscapes.
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OPTION 2: Cold Environments – Landscapes and Change

- **Explore** the links between climatic processes and the distribution of cold environments today and why that distribution has been different in the past.
 - **Research** a range of different active and relict glacial and periglacial environments which are the product of specific climatic processes and climate change.
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OPTION 3: Life on the Margins – the Food Supply Problem

- **Explore** the costs and benefits of strategies to increase food production in order to improve food security.
 - **Research** contrasting locations to draw out the range and scale of issues associated with increasing food production.
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OPTION 4: The World of Cultural Diversity

- **Explore** how external threats and internal vulnerability vary in their impacts on cultures and landscapes.
 - **Research** contrasting locations and examples to show why the impacts of these pressures vary in their severity and type.
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OPTION 5: Pollution and Human Health at Risk

- **Explore** the complex environmental and socio-economic causes of different health risks.
 - **Research** current causes of differing health risks in contrasting locations at different levels of development.
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OPTION 6: Consuming the Rural Landscape – Leisure and Tourism

- **Explore** how increasing and more diverse use of the rural landscape for leisure and tourism activities may lead to complex conflicts as more players are involved.
- **Research** different leisure and tourism activities in contrasting locations which show a range of conflicts involving a variety of players.