

Edexcel GCE

Geography

Advanced

Unit 4: Geographical Research

Advance Information: Research Focus

January 2012

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 range of factors that make tectonic activity increasingly hazardous to humans and how the impact of disasters varies over time.
- **Research** a range of social and economic impacts, resulting from seismic and volcanic hazards in contrasting locations, and how these may have varied over time.

OPTION 2: Cold Environments – Landscapes and Change

- **Explore** the processes which shaped the landscape during the Pleistocene within a region such as the British Isles.
- **Research** the wide variety of landscapes and landforms created at differing scales by glacial and periglacial processes within a chosen region.

OPTION 3: Life on the Margins – the Food Supply Problem

- **Explore** the need for, and effectiveness of, different strategies that are designed to improve food security.
- **Research** a range of food security strategies, including 'sustainable' ones, at differing scales and locations.

OPTION 4: The World of Cultural Diversity

- **Explore** how far cultures need to change and adapt when threatened by a range of environmental, socio-economic and political pressures.
- **Research** a range of human cultures showing different rates of change, degrees of cultural evolution and survival.

OPTION 5: Pollution and Human Health at Risk

- **Explore** the relative health risks from incidental and sustained pollution, and how and why these vary both spatially and over time.
- **Research** locations at varying scales and levels of development, that have experienced or are experiencing health risks from different types of pollution.

OPTION 6: Consuming the Rural Landscape – Leisure and Tourism

- **Explore** the range of people and organisations involved with leisure and tourism in rural areas, and the reasons for the differing values and attitudes they may hold.
- **Research** a range of rural areas used for leisure and tourism, to demonstrate the contrasting views and opinions of players.