

A2 Edexcel 6GEO4 Unit 4 Help

FAQ fact box

Q **When is it examined?**

A Exam in Jan or June

Q **How long is the exam?**

A 1 hr 30 min

Q **What type of Question is asked?**

A One long essay style question.

Q **What sort of answer do I write?**

A Response to the title which takes the form of a report with clear sections: introduction, conclusion and middle discussion / analysis. Structure is a key element of the report, make it obvious to the examiner. A report normally has sections and sub-headings. You may number your sections if you wish. You will often have to argue a case using the concepts, theories, case studies and examples collected during your research. One key aim is 'readability' - e.g. paragraphs need to be more than one sentence and linked into a logical sequence and argument.

Q **What is it marked out of?**

A 70 marks; which equates to 40% of A2 and 20% of total A level marks

Q **What is the Pre release focus?**

A Guidance, really a 'steer', on areas of the specification which the exam titles will assess. You will receive the research focus 4 working weeks before exam to guide your preparation. You will be given a document which has the following instructions:

Instructions to Candidates

- 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, 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 subsections and referencing.
- Please consult the accompanying generic mark scheme, also to be found on the Edexcel website.

Q **What is the generic mark scheme?**

A This is the mark scheme used for all exam titles set by all examiners, split into the sections:

- Introducing (10 marks)
- Researching and Methodology (15 marks)
- Analysis and Application (20 marks)
- Conclusions (15 marks)
- Quality of written communication and sourcing (10 marks)

Q **What does methodology mean?**

A You should indicate how the evidence you use was sampled and sourced : brief mentions of bias and range in materials gathered

Q **Should I quote where some of the information originates from?**

A Yes, you can mention how you selected data and then refer to authors or sources like organisations such as the UN ,either in the main body, or as simple footnotes or as an end mini bibliography. Avoid references to just Wikipedia and Google, 'the textbook' and school/college intranet!

Q **What are the option enquiry questions?**

A There are 4 parts to any option chosen, called enquiry questions. These are broken down into 4 further sub enquiry questions. All must be studied and the exam Q will often expect coverage of more than one enquiry question and sub enquiry question.

Q **How many Qs to choose from?**

A Only one per option

Q **Can I take my notes in?**

A No

Q **Are plans necessary?**

A Use time effectively: it is advisable to use the named page in your examination booklet for a plan however short and scrappy. Plans are invaluable in selecting correct information, rejecting other information not directly relevant, in keeping your trend of argument on track and in structuring your final product

Q **Should I use just the information given in class by my teacher?**

A No, you are required to show independent geographical research. Showcase any initiative you have taken, eg emails, fieldwork...

Q **How long should my casestudies be?**

A You should gather a range of mini examples and more detailed casestudies,

Q **Do I need special vocabulary?**

A Yes- Use the correct geographical terminology in the correct context- - eg for tectonic hazards: salience, aseismic, subduction...

Q **Do I have to learn to draw diagrams/maps?**

A Geographers may portray a large amount of information by diagrams: and those used to support/extend knowledge are welcomed by examiners. However, make sure any diagram is relevant to the title, eg no need for subduction zones if focus is hazard impact! Avoid a map showing location- the examiner will know where for example L.A. is! Some topics may not lend themselves to maps and diagrams, such as parts of the World of Cultural diversity option

Q **Do I need models and theories or just casestudies?**

A You will need the theoretical background to the topics studies, which often include models ranging from volcanic structure to the leisure pleasure periphery and carrying capacity. Link the theoretical concepts and models to reality/ case studies.

Q **Will I have to argue a case?**

A Many of the titles will be set so you can showcase your marshalling of thoughts and selection of facts in a structured way, which often means arguing a case or viewpoints or at least discussing a theme.

Q **Do I have to worry about my English too?**

A Yes, A2 work has marks available for Quality of written expression: not just Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar but structure and selection and arguing cases. Avoid colloquialisms (eg sad, cool,) & abbreviations (&, etc, don't). Avoid 'I did this or that', write in the 'third person'(it can be seen that... the following example shows...)