

Exam busting tips

I've listed some typical exam questions for senior geography students and each is followed by a short geography explainer.

Teachers can issue the explainers in advance of setting a question or use them for revision or to explain why students failed to answer the questions adequately.

You might teach geography - but never forget you are teaching students who want to pass exams!

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

ATMOSPHERE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Question

Explain in detail two possible impacts of an El Niño event on the hydrological and atmospheric system.

[El Niño's Dance - by Ritchie Cunningham's \(substack.com\)](#)

Question

Explain the role of natural factors in climate change such as solar radiation, volcanic activity, astronomical cycles and ocean currents.

[Climate Change - Historical changes in the Earth's climate \(substack.com\)](#)

And also this podcast

[Podcast | ritchiecunningham](#) and

[Podcast | ritchiecunningham](#)

Question

Should global effort be towards restoring atmospheric carbon to pre-industrial levels or towards adapting to the inevitable negative impacts of climate change?

[Prioritising Adaptation to Climate Change is Crucial \(substack.com\)](#)

Question

Explain the challenges of maintaining forest cover as our climate changes.

[Navigating the Challenges of Changing Global Forest Cover \(substack.com\)](#)

Question

Assess the usefulness of prediction in the management of wildfires.

[Predicting the Flames: - by Ritchie Cunningham's \(substack.com\)](#)

Question

Assess the challenges in managing flood risk associated with tropical storms.

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Question

Assess the effects on the carbon cycle of incineration and landfill waste disposal.

[Effects on the carbon cycle of incineration and landfill waste disposal](#)

TECTONIC HAZZARDS

Question

What causes earthquakes?

[What causes earthquakes? - by Ritchie Cunningham's \(substack.com\)](#)

Question

Compare and contrast the Park model and Hazard Management Cycle in aiding understanding of hazard management in disaster areas.

[Use of the Park Model and Hazard Management Cycle in seismic events \(substack.com\)](#)

Question

Are seismic hazards always harder to manage than volcanic hazards due to their unpredictability and scale?

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BIOGEOGRAPHY

Question

Explain how the major soil-forming factors contribute to the formation of soil profiles and describe the soil profiles of the following three soil types, gley, podzol and brown earth.

<https://ritchiecunninghams.substack.com/.../soil-forming...>

Question

Explain movements in the regolith both fast and slow slope movement and describe slope evolution.

<https://ritchiecunninghams.substack.com/.../the-restless...>

Question

‘Human activity is having a devastating impact upon cold environments with little evidence of a sustainable future emerging.’ To what extent do you agree with this view?

[The impact of human activity upon cold environments](#)

Question

Describe the interconnections between climate, vegetation and soils in the development of temperate deciduous woodland

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Question

What aspects of an ecosystem at a local scale, would need to be evaluated to determine if it has a viable future?

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HYDROLOGY

Question

Describe the uneven distribution of freshwater resources throughout the world, highlighting areas which are experiencing significant challenges.

<https://ritchiecunninghams.substack.com/.../a-world...>

Question

How does Human Activity disrupt the flow in the water cycle and worsen floods?

<https://ritchiecunninghams.substack.com/p/the-dance-of-water>

Question

Explain the impacts of changing precipitation on hydrological processes and how they vary significantly across different regions and types of drainage basins.

[Impacts of Changing Precipitation on Hydrological Processes in Different Types of Drainage Basins \(substack.com\)](#)

LITHOSPHERE

How to answer a question on glaciation

Listen to this podcast [Podcast | ritchiecunningham](#)

Question

Outline the sources of water in deserts

[The Hidden Oasis: - by Ritchie Cunningham's \(substack.com\)](#)

Question

‘No amount of coastal intervention by people can halt the natural processes which continue to present serious risks to coastal communities.’ To what extent do you agree with this view?

[The Inexorable Forces of Nature - by Ritchie Cunningham's \(substack.com\)](#)

HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

POPULATION AND MIGRATION

Question

What are the factors influencing Migration?

<https://ritchiecunninghams.substack.com/.../unveiling-the...>

Also check out this podcast

[Podcast | ritchiecunningham](#)

Question

Describe the refugee crisis in Africa and outline some of the reasons for the increase in refugees.

<https://ritchiecunninghams.substack.com/.../a-sea-of...>

For questions on **Population topics** – listen to my podcast

[Podcast | ritchiecunningham](#)

And checkout my revision resource on Population with Questions and answers

https://www.ritchiecunningham.com/files/ugd/9d30e8_9d64b6d5194e4917b1e4c25068370947.pdf

URBAN GEOGRAPHY

Question

Assess the extent to which counter-urbanisation leads to social and economic change.

[Counter-Urbanisation: Assessing Social and Economic Changes \(substack.com\)](#)

Question

Describe and Explain the changes in the distribution of the world's most populated urban centres between 1950 and 2000.

[Changes in the growth and distribution of the world's major urban centres between 1950 and 2000 and the consequences of these changes](#)

Question

Can some urban landscapes intensify economic inequality and social segregation?

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Question

Assess the effectiveness of an Urban Renewal project you have studied.

[An evaluation of GEAR \(Glasgow Eastern Area Renewal\) Project](#)

DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH

Question

Outline some alternative development strategies for less developed countries.

[Exploring Alternative Development Strategies for Less Developed Countries \(substack.com\)](#)

Question

How does the burden of debt hamper development in less developed countries?

[The Burden of Borrowing: - by Ritchie Cunningham's \(substack.com\)](#)

Question

How are health and development connected?

[The Interconnected Relationship Between Economic Development and Health \(substack.com\)](#)

Question

Explain how human and physical factors influence global Health and morbidity.

[The Interplay of Human and Physical Factors in Global Health and Morbidity](#)

[Podcast | ritchiecunningham](#)

RURAL GEOGRAPHY

Question

In some parts of the world tropical shifting cultivation is changing into sedentary agriculture. Describe the impact this change is having on farming methods, the environment and settlement.

[The Impact of Transitioning from Shifting Cultivation to Sedentary Agriculture in the Tropics \(substack.com\)](#)

Question

Describe the traditional methods of rice cultivation in southeast Asia and comment on the developments that have led to increased production since the 1960s.

[Traditional Rice Cultivation in Southeast Asia \(substack.com\)](#)

ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL GEOGRAPHY

Question

Describe within Europe the physical and economic reasons for both industrial overconcentration in densely populated areas and industrial under-development in peripheral, rural regions.

https://open.substack.com/pub/ritchiecunninghams/p/industrial-overconcentration-and?r=209512&utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web&showWelcomeOnShare=true

Question

Assess the role of transport as a factor in globalisation.

[The Engine of Connection: Transport's Vital Role in Globalisation \(substack.com\)](#)

Question

Describe the main changes in industrial structure, location and employment sectors within Europe from 1950 to 2020.

[The changing face of industrialisation in Europe](#)

Question

Assess the impacts of world trade in coffee and smartphones on the UK

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GLOBAL ISSUES

Question

Assess the extent to which emerging countries need both 'hard' and 'soft' power to extend their global influence.

[The Balance of Power - by Ritchie Cunningham's \(substack.com\)](#)

GENERAL ADVICE

And for general hints on how to answer exam questions from a Principal Examiner of 10 years

[Podcast | ritchiecunningham](#)

Check out my geography books as resources for senior pupils, which they can download on their phones if they have the Kindle app.

[My Books | ritchiecunningham](#)

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