

How to achieve the highest grades at geography GCSE

- Learn what the *command words* mean (describe, explain, state, define, identify)
- Use the *Figure* provided in the exam/insert in your answer (graph or map data and features in the photograph). **Use it.** Refer to grid references, direction, distance, data etc.
- Learn 3 important *facts* about each *case study* (where, when and why)
- Learn what the *main processes* are (erosion, transportation, deposition, plate tectonics, deforestation ; population change and structure , migration, urbanization, urban renewal , sustainability (ecotourism))
- Make sure you know your map skills: four figure grid references, scale and direction
- Be familiar with landforms, grid references and other features on **OS maps.**
- Practice **6 and 8 mark exam** questions using the AQA website.
- Use the mark schemes on the AQA website to look at **how to link ideas** in 6 and 8 mark questions.
- Use **geographical vocabulary** wherever possible e.g. Deposit (not drop), erode (not break down) etc.

To stretch even further

- Put ideas into **categories** wherever possible e.g. Effects – social, economic and environmental. Causes- human and physical. Responses- long and short term.
- Learn **specific facts for each case study**. First, locate where (eg Italy, L'Aquila) and when (eg. 2009) the example is from. Second, use specific facts. Eg how many deaths, how many people migrated, which year. Etc. *Do this a couple of days/a week before the exam to learn by heart.*
- Be really **specific** when discussing **processes**. Eg, which type of erosion is dominant? Which process is involved in the formation of certain landforms?
- Describe graphs/maps using the **GSE** rule. State the **general** trend, give **specifics** (use data), and identify any **exceptions** (or anomalies).
- When looking at effects/ impacts/ consequences, always think **SCALE**. (Local, national, international).