



Top 10 tips for achieving a 7/8/9 in Geography



1. **Topics** - Make sure that you know which questions/sections that you need to answer in your exam paper

Paper	Topic	Total marks available	Long answer question
Paper 1 Physical Geography	The Challenge of Natural Hazards	30 marks + 3 SPaG	9 marks
	The Living World (+ optional Hot Deserts)	25 marks	9 marks
	Physical Landscapes in the UK (Coasts and Rivers)	30 marks	6 marks
Paper 2 Human Geography	Urban Issues and Challenges	30 marks + 3 SPaG	9 marks
	The Changing Economic World	30 marks	9 marks
	The Challenge of Resource Management (+ optional Food)	25 marks	6 marks
Paper 3 – Geographical Apps	Issue Evaluation	35 marks	9 marks
	Fieldwork (Stratford and Walton)	40 marks	9 marks
Map skills, graphical skills and statistical skills will be on every paper			

2. **Command words** - Make sure that you know your command words. These tell you how you need to answer the question. Remember to **H.U.G** – Highlight, Underline, Glance Back

Command word	Number of marks per command word type				
	1	2	4	6	9
Identify/Name/Give	X				
Define	X				
Calculate	X	X			
Label	X	X			
Draw		X			
Outline		X			
Compare		X	X		
Describe		X	X		
Explain			X	X	
Suggest		X	X	X	X
Assess					X
To what extent					X
Evaluate					X
Discuss				X	X
Justify					X

3. **Number of marks** - Make sure that you know how your answers are marked. Take note of the number of marks awarded and aim to complete it in 1 mark a minute.

Question types	Number of marks per question type	How it is marked
Multiple choice	Select one from 4 choices	Point marked
Short open response	1-2 marks	Point marked
Open response	4 or 6 marks	Level marked
Calculation	1-4 marks	Point marked
Extended open response	9 marks	Level marked

4. **Examples and case studies** - Make sure that you learn your examples and case studies. Specific facts and figures are needed for 7/8/9 grades

Paper 1 - Physical Geography

<u>Specification Requirement</u>	<u>Your examples from lessons</u>	<u>What is in the CGP revision guide</u>
Paper 1: The Challenge of Natural Hazards (Section A)		
Use named examples to show how the effects and responses to a tectonic hazard vary between two areas of contrasting levels of wealth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> L'Aquila, Italy 2009 in exercise books, textbook and revision guide. Gorka Nepal 2015 in exercise books and textbook (or you could use Kashmir, Pakistan 2005 from revision guide). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> L'Aquila. Italy Kashmir, Pakistan
Use a named example of a tropical storm to show its effects and responses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hurricane Katrina 2005 in exercise books and revision guide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hurricane Katrina
An example of a recent extreme weather event in the UK to illustrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> causes social, economic and environmental impacts how management strategies can reduce risk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boscastle Floods 2004 from exercise books (or you could use UK snow Nov/Dec 2010 in revision guide or Cumbria Floods 2009 from textbook) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extreme Cold
Paper 1: The Living World (Section B)		
An example of a small scale UK ecosystem to illustrate the concept of interrelationships within a natural system, an understanding of producers, consumers, decomposers, food chain, food web and nutrient cycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Epping Forest, UK in exercise book and textbook. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hedgerow (Not very good!!)
A case study of a tropical rainforest to illustrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> causes of deforestation – subsistence and commercial farming, logging, road building, mineral extraction, energy development, settlement, population growth impacts of deforestation – economic development, soil erosion, contribution to climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amazon Rainforest, Brazil in exercise book, textbook and revision guide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amazon rainforest
A case study of a hot desert to illustrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> development opportunities in hot desert environments: mineral extraction, energy, farming, tourism challenges of developing hot desert environments: extreme temperatures, water supply, inaccessibility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Western Desert, USA in exercise book and textbook (or you could use Sahara from revision guide). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sahara - Africa

Paper 1: Physical Landscapes in the UK (Section C)

<p>An example of a section of coastline in the UK to identify its major landforms of erosion and deposition.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorset Coast, UK in exercise books, revision guide and textbook. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorset Coast
<p>An example of a coastal management scheme in the UK to show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the reasons for management the management strategy the resulting effects and conflicts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holderness Coast, UK in exercise books and revision guide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holderness Coast
<p>An example of a river valley in the UK to identify its major landforms of erosion and deposition.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River Tees, UK in exercise books (or you could use River Clyde, Scotland in the revision guide) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River Clyde
<p>An example of a flood management scheme in the UK to show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> why the scheme was required the management strategy the social, economic and environmental issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boscastle, UK in exercise books and revision guide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boscastle

Paper 2 – Human Geography

Paper 2: The Urban Issues and Challenges (Section A)

<p>A case study of major city in an LIC or NEE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the location and importance of the city, regionally, nationally and internationally. causes of growth: natural increase and migration how urban growth has created opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> social: access to services – health and education; access to resources – water supply, energy economic: how urban industrial areas can be a stimulus for economic development how urban growth has created challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> managing urban growth – slums, squatter settlements providing clean water, sanitation systems and energy providing access to services – health and education reducing unemployment and crime managing environmental issues – waste disposal, air and water pollution, traffic congestion. An example of how urban planning is improving the quality of life for the urban poor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lagos, Nigeria in exercise book, textbook and revision guide. Urban planning: Makoko Floating School, Lagos, Nigeria in exercise books and textbook. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lagos
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<p>A case study of a major city in the UK to illustrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the location and importance of the city in the UK and the wider world impacts of national and international migration on the growth and character of the city how urban change has created opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> social and economic: cultural mix, recreation and entertainment, employment, integrated transport systems environmental: urban greening how urban change has created challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> social and economic: urban deprivation, inequalities in housing, education, health and employment environmental: dereliction, building on brownfield and greenfield sites, waste disposal the impact of urban sprawl on the rural-urban fringe, and the growth of commuter settlements. An example of an urban regeneration project to show: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reasons why the area needed regeneration the main features of the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> London, UK in exercise book and textbook (or you could use Liverpool in the revision guide). Urban planning: Olympic Park in Stratford, London in exercise books and textbook. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liverpool
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Paper 2: The Changing Economic World (Section B)

<p>An example of how the growth of tourism in an LIC or NEE helps to reduce the development gap.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tunisia, Africa in exercise books and textbook (or you could use Kenya in the revision guide). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kenya
<p>A case study of one LIC or NEE to illustrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the location and importance of the country, regionally and globally the wider political, social, cultural and environmental 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nigeria, Africa in exercise books and textbook (or you could use India in the revision guide). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India

<p>context within which the country is placed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the changing industrial structure. The balance between different sectors of the economy. How manufacturing industry can stimulate economic development the role of transnational corporations (TNCs) in relation to industrial development. Advantages and disadvantages of TNC(s) to the host country the changing political and trading relationships with the wider world international aid: types of aid, impacts of aid on the receiving country the environmental impacts of economic development the effects of economic development on quality of life for the population. 		
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Paper 2: The Challenge of Resource Management (Section C)

<p>An example of a large scale agricultural development to show how it has both advantages and disadvantages.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almeria, Spain in exercise book and textbook (or you could use Thanet Earth in the revision guide). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanet Earth - Kent
<p>An example of a local scheme in an LIC or NEE to increase sustainable supplies of food.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jamalpur, Bangladesh in exercise book and textbook (or you could use Agroforestry in Mali in the revision guide). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agroforestry in Mali



5. **H.U.G.** – Make sure that you use this when answering your questions:

HIGHLIGHT – the command words e.g. Describe, Explain, To what extent, Assess,

UNDERLINE – the key words e.g. impacts, responses, headlands and bays

GLANCE BACK – remind yourself what you need to write about before you start answering

8. **GCSE(A)** – Make sure that you use this acronym when answering any ‘Describe’ style questions. You will likely to be asked this with a map/graph/data table:

General

Comment

Specific

Example

Anomaly

6. **P.E.E.L** – Make sure when you are answering your 6 and 9 mark questions, that you write using P.E.E.L. paragraphs:

P – Point

E – Evidence

E – Explanation

L – Link back to the question



7. **Structure** – Make sure when you are answering your 6/9 mark questions that you structure your answers:

- 6 marks – 2 P.E.E.L paragraphs and a conclusion depending on the command word
- 9 marks – Mini introduction introducing your example/view, 3 P.E.E.L paragraphs and overall conclusion

8. **Timing** – Make sure that you complete your Paper 1 and 2 exams by spending 30 minutes per question. You need to spend 10 minutes completing your 9 mark questions



9. **CGP revision guide** - Make sure you have purchased a CGP revision guide. This will become very useful for your revision



10. **Putting the effort in!** – You will need to work hard to achieve a 7/8/9 in Geography. Your teachers will help you to achieve this but ultimately it comes down to **YOU**. Make sure that you are completing classwork to the best of your ability, revise independently using your PLCs, attend revision sessions when they are arranged, spend time reflecting on your mock exams and make improvements using your green pen. If you follow these top 10 tips then you look set to do well in your Geography GCSE 😊

Examples of top mark responses

Choose **either** an earthquake **or** a volcanic eruption.

Assess the extent to which primary effects are more significant than secondary effects.

Use **Figure 5a or 5b** and an example you have studied. [9 marks] [+ 3 SPaG marks]

Example Answer:

Introduction – Set the scene and introduce your examples.

On the 6th April 2009, an earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale hit the town of L'Aquila in the Abruzzo region of Italy. L'Aquila experienced a range of both primary and secondary effects in the earthquake.

1st paragraph – Discuss the primary effects.

The primary effects of the earthquake were that 308 people were killed, 1500 people were injured and 67,500 people were made homeless. One of the reasons why so many people may have died and been injured was because the earthquake occurred at night at 3.32am this would have meant that people were at home and in bed asleep so houses would have collapsed on them, killing or injuring them. The primary effects of this earthquake were very significant with a number of deaths, injuries and a large amount of people being made homeless. Primary effects of building damage with the associated deaths and injuries can also be seen in Figure 5a with again significant effects to the people and area affected.

2nd paragraph – Discuss the secondary effects.

The secondary effects of this earthquake were that aftershocks triggered landslides and rock falls, this increased the damage to the area. Since the earthquake the number of students at L'Aquila University has declined probably due to the fact that students won't choose this area as they are aware of the risk in the area. In addition to these secondary effects there is a severe lack of housing for all residents of the area due to it being damaged in the earthquake, this has forced up the price of houses and rents. The secondary effects of this earthquake have an impact on people's lives however probably not as greatly as the primary effects.

Conclusion – where you assess the extent.

Overall, it is clear that the primary effects are much more significant than the secondary effects in this earthquake as they are death, injury and loss of homes which will have had a greater effect on people's lives than the secondary effects which tend to be more related to damage and housing issues.

Assess the extent to which prediction is the most important factor in reducing the effects of tropical storms. [9 marks] [+ 3 SPaG marks]

Example Answer:

<p>Introduction – Set the scene and introduce your examples.</p>	<p>Reducing the effects of tropical storms can be achieved through the methods of prediction, protection and planning.</p>
<p>1st paragraph – Discuss how prediction is a factor in reducing the effects of tropical storms.</p>	<p>Tropical storms can nowadays be monitored to track the path they are taking across ocean and which areas of land they are likely to hit. This is done by National Hurricane Centres and gives people time to evacuate the area. This has been possible due to the development of new supercomputers by organisations such as the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which give 5 days' warning and are accurate within 400km. The National Hurricane Centre in Florida predicts tropical storms paths across the Atlantic Ocean using a 'track cone'. The cone shape allows for errors with the unpredictable nature behaviour of tropical storms, especially when they hit land. Around 70% of tropical storms occur within the predicted cones. In 2013 Cyclone <u>Phailin</u> in India was successfully predicted. As many as 1.2 million people were successfully evacuated. Only 21 people died. This compares to 1999 when a similar cyclone hit this area and more than 10,000 lives were lost. As shown the effects of prediction have hugely reduced the effects of tropical storms.</p>
<p>2nd/3rd paragraphs – Discuss how protection and planning may reduce the effects of tropical storms.</p>	<p>Another method of reducing the effects tropical storms is protection. Buildings have areas of weakness which can be reinforced to reduce damage caused by the forceful winds of tropical storms. In the USA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) advises homeowners to: install hurricane straps between the roof and walls, install storm shutters on windows, install an emergency generator, tie down objects such as garden furniture, reinforce garage doors and remove trees close to buildings. Most of these measures will significantly reduce the effects on people's homes.</p> <p>Another way of reducing the effects is planning. American National Hurricane Preparedness Week in May each year aims to encourage people to plan what they need to have and do in the event of tropical storms. Advice includes: preparing disaster supply kits, having fuel in vehicles, knowing where official evacuation shelters are, storing loose objects, planning with family what to do. All these things aid the reduction of the effects of tropical storms.</p>
<p>Conclusion – assess the extent to which prediction is the most important factor in reducing the effects.</p>	<p>Overall prediction is the most beneficial way of reducing the effects of tropical storms as it lessens the amount of lives lost when prediction is correct and evacuation happens. However the benefits of protection and planning shouldn't be underestimated as both of these have a role to play in the reduction of the effects.</p>

Evaluate the effectiveness of an urban planning strategy in helping to improve the quality of life for the urban poor.

Use an example of a city in a lower income country (LIC) or newly emerging economy (NEE).

[9 marks] [+ 3 SPaG marks]

Example Answer:

<p>Introduction – Set the scene and introduce your examples.</p>	<p>Lagos, Nigeria is a city which is growing at approximately 600,000 people each year. This is putting pressure on the city in terms of both resources and space.</p>
<p>1st paragraph – Introduce and describe the urban planning strategy.</p>	<p>One idea to solve the problem has been to create floating communities using the vast area of water that surround Lagos to house the growing population. Already several squatter settlements like <u>Makoko</u> are built on stilts at the edge of Lagos. In 2014 the <u>Makoko</u> floating school was built. It has classrooms that can host lessons for up to 60 students at a time and when not being used as a school can be used as a community centre.</p>
<p>2nd paragraph – Discuss effectiveness of urban planning strategy.</p>	<p>The floating school not only helps to meet the educational needs in <u>Makoko</u> it is also a prototype of the sort of structures that could help to house the growing population of <u>Makoko</u> and other Lagos communities in the future. The school is environmentally sustainable with its floating design; it would also help communities withstand the impact of rising sea levels as a result of climate change.</p> <p>Unfortunately in June 2016 during a heavy seasonal thunderstorm the floating school actually collapsed. With the collapse of the school the whole <u>Makoko</u> settlement was thrown into jeopardy as the government had backed away from demolition and instead approved a regeneration plan for the area. The school had become a symbol of bottom-up development, its designs even adopted by the state ministry of urban development for new house plans. The collapse throws this process into disarray.</p>
<p>Conclusion – Evaluate overall effectiveness.</p>	<p>In conclusion, <u>Makoko</u> floating school whilst functioning provided an effective strategy to combat the issues of population pressure in Lagos. It also provided a strategy that was sustainable and could be replicated elsewhere. However the strategy has not proved to have longevity to it due to weather pressures.</p>

Evaluate the effectiveness of tourism in reducing the development gap [9 marks]

Example Answer:

Introduction – Set the scene and introduce your examples.	<p>Tourism is one strategy used by countries to reduce the development gap. Others include: investment, industrial development, international aid, intermediate technology, fair trade, debt relief and microfinance loans.</p>
1 st paragraph – impact tourism has had on Tunisia's development gap.	<p>Tourism has been effective at reducing the development gap in Tunisia as by 2014 Tunisia had a GNI per capita of US\$4,230, making it one of the more wealthy countries in Africa, in addition, incomes of Tunisians has quadrupled since the 1970s. Higher incomes have mean longer life expectancies as diet and health have improved. The Tunisian government has also been able to invest almost 4% of its annual income in the health system further improving conditions in the country. Literacy rates have increased markedly over time, rising from 66% to 79% since 1995. Tourism has created many jobs for local people and these jobs have higher wages than other sectors of work, this has meant that more families can afford to send their children to school and even university. Standards for women have risen dramatically, schooling is now compulsory for girls as well as boys, and more women are entering higher education. Tourism has helped connect Tunisia to other places and their cultures.</p>
2 nd paragraph –	<p>However tourism may not be a fully sustainable option for countries such as Tunisia and there may be limits as to how much further the development gap can be narrows by tourism. Pollution of the environment is a massive concern as many of Tunisia beaches have been polluted by untreated sewage waste from hotels. There is also the issue of leakage, this occurs when companies like Thomas Cook send holiday makers to Tunisia but keep a larger percentage of the profit. This limits how much benefit Tunisia gets and slows down the rate of economic development. Terrorism is however the biggest limiter of development currently in Tunisia with regard to tourism, two terrorist attacks occurred in Tunisia in 2015. As a result European governments say Tunisia is no longer a safe destination for their citizens. This sadly means less foreign investment in Tunisia's economy. The terrorists have attacked the tourist industry because the object to some of the ways in which Tunisia is developing, such as greater equality for women. Following the 2015 tourism attracts in Tunisia, there has been a 20% drop in tourists, with an estimated 200 major hotels now closed and shuttered.</p>
Conclusion – Justify decision.	<p>To summarise, Tourism can by extremely effective at reducing the development gap however it does have its limitations and therefore shouldn't be relied on as being the only method used to do this.</p>