

Geography

Practice Questions

A Level



Instructions

Individual, exam-style questions

The questions contained in this booklet match the style of questions that are typically asked in exams. This booklet is not however, a practice exam. Elevate's research with top students identified that top students do more practice questions than anyone else. They begin the process of testing their knowledge early in the year.

Therefore, we have provided exam-format questions that are sorted by topic so that you can answer them as you learn the information, rather than waiting until the very end of the year to complete exams.

Comments, questions?

Let us know if you need any further advice by visiting www.elevateeducation.com. You can comment on any of our material, or head to the FAQ section and ask us a question. Also, you can find us on social media so you can stay up to date on any brand new tips we release throughout the year.

Other information

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Coastal systems and landscapes

Question 1: Which coastal feature is most likely to form in a low energy environment with a large supply of sand, a large tidal range and a prevailing onshore wind? (1 mark)

A sand dunes	<input type="radio"/>
B compound spits	<input type="radio"/>
C barrier beaches	<input type="radio"/>
D offshore bars	<input type="radio"/>

Question 2: Which of the following best defines isostatic sea level change? (1 mark)

A A sudden and temporary change in the local sea level.	<input type="radio"/>
B The relationship between local and global sea level change.	<input type="radio"/>
C A global change in sea level which is the result of an increase or decrease to the volume of water in the oceans.	<input type="radio"/>
D A local change in sea level which is the result of an increase or decrease to the height of the land.	<input type="radio"/>

Question 3: A dalmation coast is formed by... (1 mark)

A emergence	<input type="radio"/>
B deposition	<input type="radio"/>
C submergence	<input type="radio"/>
D wind	<input type="radio"/>

Answers 1) A 2) D 3) C

Question 4: This photograph was taken in 2016 at Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk. Using the image, describe the current sea defences and comment on their impact. (6 marks)



<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-35526366>

Answer:

Defences

- Wooden Groynes
- Rip-Rap
- Sea-wall (sloping in foreground, vertical in background)
- Man-made dune/revetement in foreground

Impacts

- Relationship between the two sets of defences. Foreground construction is visibly more modern.
- Wooden groynes are submerged and have little to no impact.
- Vertical sea-wall is under a lot more stress than sloped sea wall.
- Visible difference in coastline. Background has less beach.
- Future – Rebuilding/strengthening of sea defences in the background.
- Impact that they may have further down the coastline.
- Question of sustainability – shoreline management/integrated coastal zone management.
- If issues are appropriate to the picture, then they're allowed.

Judging by the AQA specimen paper, to get into the top bracket (4-6 marks) an answer must have a clear description and show a clear understanding of the issues of coastal defences. The resource should be used appropriately with clear engagement and focus on the issues. Comment on the issues should be logical and show evidence of interpretation and analysis. There may be some evaluation.

TIP – Use the image to speculate about the future.

The photograph provides evidence that recent coastal defences have an impact upon older, less effective defences. That should be at the heart of your answer. Centre your conclusion on the fact that the newer defences have left the older ones obsolete. They are going to need to be strengthened/rebuilt to protect that part of the coast, however, there will be sustainability issues as this will most likely cause damage further along the coast.

Question 5: Account for the landforms created as a result of coastal deposition (9 marks)

Answer:

- Simple and Compound Spits
- Berms, runnels and cusps
- Salt marshes
- Bars
- Off-shore Tombolos
- Barrier Beaches
- Bayside/Bayhead beaches
- Sand Dunes

According to the AQA specimen paper a top bracket answer (7-9 marks) for this type of question would include:

Detailed analysis and interpretation of the factors leading to the formation of more than one landform. Detailed knowledge and understanding of both characteristics and factors leading to the formation. Likely to offer detailed place reference.

TIP – ‘Account’ for the landforms

The command word ‘account’ is not one I’ve seen in any practice papers from the previous AQA specification, but it shows up a few times in the new specimen paper. It means ‘give reasons for’. So in other words, this question is asking you to explain how coastal deposition results in different landforms being created. It’s all about having a deep understanding of how different processes and conditions result in different landforms.

The new specification seems to place a lot more emphasis on how different processes result in different landforms than previously. For example, there’s a clear distinction between types of spit. Spits would be a really good angle of attack for this question.

What processes and conditions result in a spit being compound/simple? What processes result in a beach being a bayhead/bayside beach. Comparing two similar landforms alongside one another shows a real depth and colour of understanding.