

# Geography Exam Top Tips



Everyone valued • Every day an opportunity • Every moment focused on success

# Time Management

Remember a minute per mark

- 1 mark questions - 1 minute
- 2 mark questions - 2 minutes
- 4 mark questions - 4 minutes
- 6 mark question - 5 minutes
- 9 mark questions - 9 minutes



# **BUGing and Planning**

Remember to BUG your question -

- Box the command word
- Underline the geography
- Glance back at the question
- You must plan for any of your 9 mark questions. For example you should aim to do the following:
- Remember your PEEL
- Point/ Evidence/ Explain/ Link

# Command words

## Evaluate

This question involves making a judgement on the success of something and providing a conclusion to justify that viewpoint. This may draw upon a located example or require you to interpret a figure.

**Structure: 3 x PEEL paragraphs, followed by a conclusion.**

## Assess

Often found in Paper 2, this involves using evidence to determine the **relative significance or importance** of something. It may require you to draw upon a located example.

**Structure: 3 x PEEL paragraphs, followed by a conclusion.**

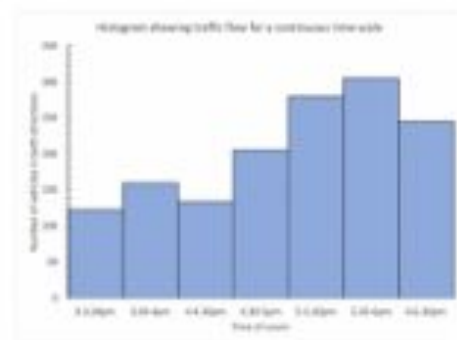
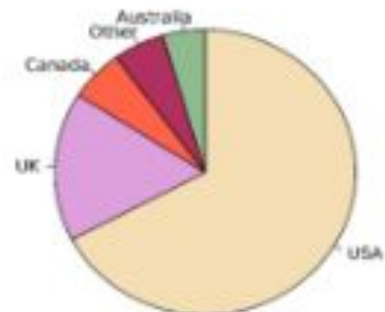
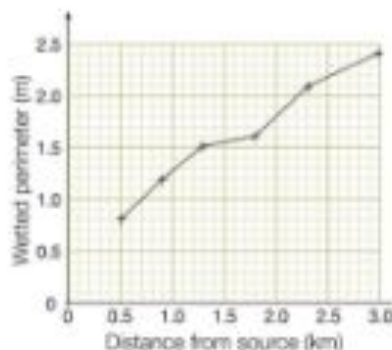
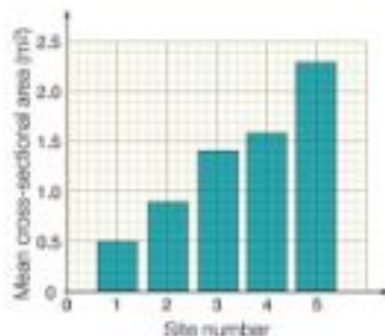
## Examine

This is exclusive to Paper 1. It involves breaking something down into a **step-by-step process**, and explaining the effect that each part has. This may also involve linking discussion to a figure.

**Structure: 4 x PEE paragraphs. .**



## Interpreting data



Data can be presented in a variety of different ways and you may be required to interpret any of the following forms of data presentation:

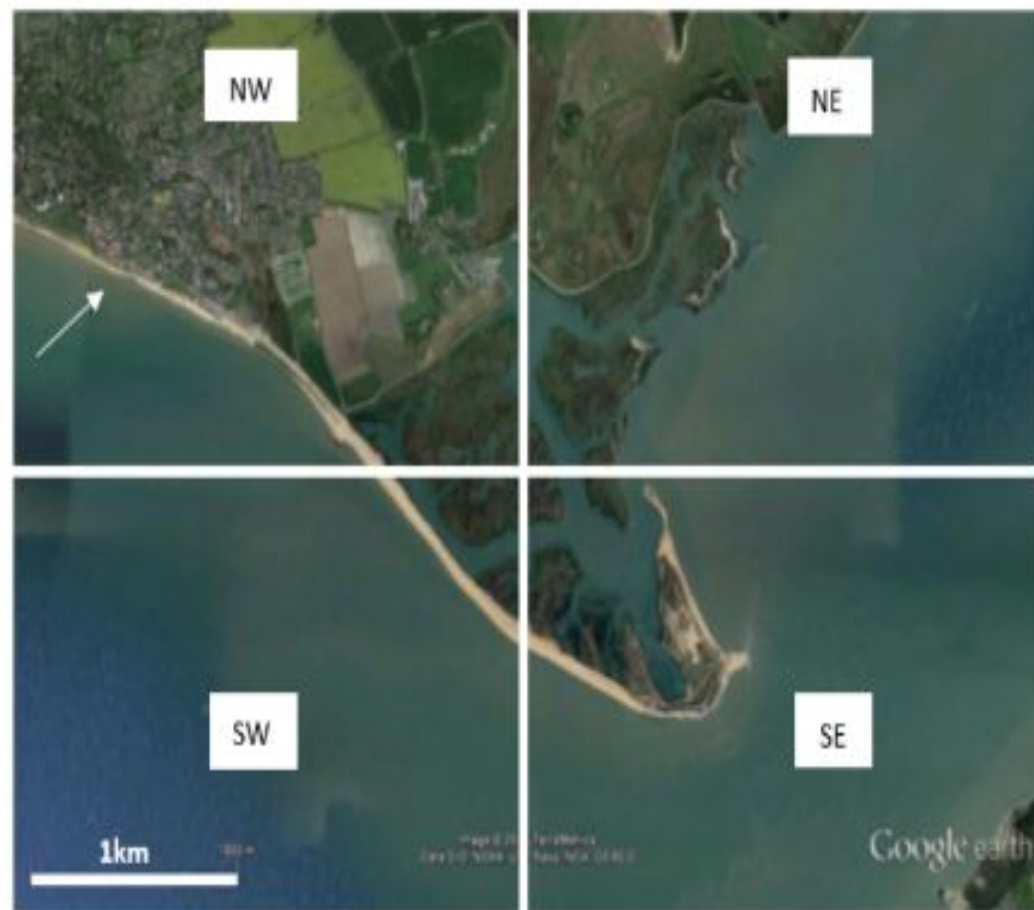
- Bar graphs
- Line graphs
- Pie charts
- Histograms
- Pictograms
- Wind rose diagrams
- Triangular graphs
- Proportional symbols
- Population pyramids
- Choropleth maps
- Flow-line maps

## How to embed data interpretations into an answer

The 'describe' command word is most commonly used for questions that require data to be interpreted and embedded within an answer. Although this strategy may need tweaking depending on context, the most reliable approach to this type of question is the following:

- General trend (increasing, decreasing, stable)
- Identification of biggest increase or contributor
- An outlier or a piece of data that does not follow the trend

## Dividing the figure into quadrants



If using evidence from a satellite image figure in an essay, you must be precise when describing the part of the image you are referring to.

One of the easiest ways in which to do this is to apply the quadrant method, which involves the following:

- Split the image into four quadrants of equal size
- Use compass directions to describe where in the image you are referring to
- Use scale to describe the size of physical features in an image i.e. the length of the spit

**Your resource booklet is not submitted with your exam paper, so examiners will not be able to see your use of the quadrant method. However, this is a well-known 'hack' amongst examiners and geography teachers alike, thus if utilised correctly it will make it easier for your interpretation to be recognised as correct, and thus score you those crucial AO4 marks!**



## 4 and 6-figure grid references

4-figure grid references are suitable for larger geographical features such as a park, lake or perhaps a bay on a coast. 6-figure grid references are used when we need to be more precise in defining the location of a feature. This is usually because it is smaller in size, so we might use this approach to identify where a telephone box is, or a meander in a river.



### Finding a 4-figure grid reference:

1. Go to the bottom left corner of the square.
2. Find how far east (x-axis) this point is.
3. Find how far north (y-axis) this point is.
4. Write the full 4 figure grid reference.

Once you have practiced and are confident with 4-figure grid references, you can then think about giving 6-figure grid references a go.

### Finding a 6-figure grid reference:

1. Find the 4-figure grid reference.
2. Leave a gap for a third number on each side.
3. Imagine the grid square is divided by 10.
4. Count how far east (x-axis) and north (y-axis).
5. Fill in the gaps with these numbers.

### Example

The 4-figure grid reference for the Public House (PH) in Furnace would be 02 00.  
The 6-figure grid reference for the same location would be 024 001.

**There is usually a +/- 1 on 6-figure grid reference questions, so even if you don't get the answer spot on but are close, you'll likely still get the marks.**