



WJEC GCSE Geography B

Case study AfL exercises – based on Unit 1 Higher tier (2013)

Teacher guidance notes and suggested teaching / learning activities

The case studies that follow were written by Higher tier candidates as responses to Unit 1 questions in the 2013 GCSE Geography B examination. The responses have been word processed in order to make them more legible but the spellings, punctuation and grammar are recorded exactly as presented by the candidates.

An assessment commentary, written by the Principal Examiner and Subject Officer, has been provided at the end of this document. It may be used to assist training in application of the mark scheme within geography departments. In addition, the responses may be used with candidates in Assessment for Learning (AfL) exercises. Five different AfL exercises are suggested below.

Activity 1

Geography is about real places and one important feature of a place is its location. Location is best described using other well known places as reference points. This may be done using points of the compass eg X is to the North of Y. You may also need to use a statement of scale eg X is 100km from Y. Using phrases such as 'below' instead of south, 'above' instead of north or 'near to' will not be credited by the examiners.

1. Use an atlas (or the internet) to research the location of:

- a) Brecon Beacons National Park b) Boscastle.

2 Describe the location of each of these places. Remember that the Brecon Beacons covers a large **area** where Boscastle is a **point** on a map so your descriptions will need to use slightly different styles. Discuss this issue with another student. How can you describe the distance of an area, such as the Brecon Beacons NP, from a point, such as Cardiff?

3 Now read the beginning of each case study of candidates A, B, C, D and E.

- a) Put them in rank order based on the quality of the description of location.
b) Explain why one candidate has described location better than the others.
c) Suggest how candidate B could have improved their description of location.

Activity 2

When you write a case study the examiners are looking for evidence that you know about a **real** place. You can do this by providing some details that are specific to that place. For example, lots of floods are caused by heavy rainfall so the examiner will think you are making general statements if you state that 'the flood was caused by heavy rain'. You need to provide some details. For example, some floods are caused because the rain fell over a long period of time (specific detail would be 'in February it rained every day and the soils became saturated with water so no more could sink in') whereas others are caused by a short period of unusually heavy rainfall (specific detail would be '80mm of rainfall fell in 24 hours').

1 Read the case studies by candidates C, D and E.

a) Use a red pen to underline any statements that are general ie they could apply to almost any flood.

b) Use a green pen to underline statements that seem to be detailed or specific to Boscastle.

2 Put the 3 responses in rank order, starting with the candidate who has provided the most detailed account.

3 Suggest how candidate C could improve their response by giving some specific or detailed description.

Activity 3

Each case study should contain some description and some explanation. To explain means that you have to show your understanding of a concept. The word 'explain' is usually used with the word 'why', so 'explain why...' means you need to give reasons for something. However, some candidates do not really answer the 'explain' part of a question. Instead they concentrate on the 'describe' part and then it is impossible for the examiner to give them a top level.

1 Read the responses of candidates A and B. Use two colours to underline the explain parts of their answers.

a) Use a red pen to underline general reasons for managing rural areas.

b) Use a green pen to underline any detailed reasons why the Brecon Beacons NP needs to be managed.

Activity 4

The case study has 3 additional marks for the accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar. The examiner will circle some mistakes and decide whether these mistakes have made the meaning of the answer unclear – if they have, then the candidate will get 0 marks for SPaG.

1 Read candidate B. Circle:

a) 3 places where spelling mistakes have been made

b) Two places where there are errors of punctuation.

c) One place where the wrong tense has been made (a grammatical mistake).

Activity 5

1 Working in pairs, put the 5 candidates into rank order, starting with the candidate who has made the most detailed and specific response to the question that has been set. Make sure that you agree the rank order with your partner.

2 Now work in a team of four. Explain your rank order list with the other pair. See if you can all agree to the same rank order.

3 Working on your own, choose one of the candidates who you ranked 3rd, 4th or 5th. Suggest three things that this candidate could have done to improve their mark.

GCSE Geography B Case Studies

For a rural area where the environment is under pressure:

- Name the area;
- Describe ways the environment is managed to reduce the pressure caused by visitors.
- Explain why this management is needed.

Candidate A

- Brecon Beacons.
- Different areas were sectioned off for different purposes. ie one for tourism. Selecting certain paths for tourists to go on so that no gates from farms are left open and no wildlife is disturbed. Buses are used to transport the people (Beacons Bus) so CO2 emissions are reduced greatly. CO2 contributes to global warming. Other areas could be opened up to reduce the amount of footpath erosion in honeypot sites. More rubbish bins could be set up to reduce litter pollution and eye pollution.
- This management is needed so that the area can be kept for generations to come - be sustainable. If this area wasn't managed properly it would be destroyed by footpath erosion – wear away the land – and CO2 emissions which contribute to global warming. There are millions of visitors to the Brecon Beacons each year, without any management the Beacons will erode away. Different areas being sectioned off for different purposes reduce the overall amount of erosion being done.

Candidate B

The area I am writing about is Brecon Beacons, located east of Wales, UK.

To reduce the pressure caused by visitors Brecon has tried to keep the environment protected. Like where people walk e.g. hills. paths have been put into place to try and stop foot erosion, keeps you off most of the land. This is just one of many other methods the local authorities have put into place there to manage the environment. With a lot of visitors there will also be a large amount of pollution brought with them. They try and reduce this by encouraging other means of transport.

Management is needed to keep the natural environment from being destroyed. Without it, Brecon's habitats and environment wouldn't be as they are today. If people were just allowed to walk anywhere you would see a lot more footpath erosion on walks etc, taking away the natural beauty. If cars were being used the atmosphere would soon turn much like ones we have in the city.

For a rural area that has suffered from a river flood:

- Name the area that suffered from a river flood;
- Describe how the flood affected different groups of people.
- Explain why the reasons for the flood.

Candidate C

This flood would have effected different groups of people in different ways. For example; Business people would have been effected badly because thier shop or factory would be out of use for a while therefore preventing them making money. Also families would be effected badly because they would have no electricity so a bad quality of life for them. This flood could have also left families homeless and so they would have a bad standard of life till they got sorted again.

This flood would have started by persistent, heavy rain down pours of rain. This would cause the level of the river to rise and water would have poured out all down the streets and in peoples homes and businesses leaving people homeless with no money. Also the river banks could have burst due to the pressure of water along with overflowing

Candidate D

Boscastle is an area which suffered from a river flood. The reason for the flood was that low pressure from the Atlantic ocean gathered over Brown Willy Hill where it condensed and rained heavily. The slopes of the mountain were steep therefore the surface run off was large and lack of vegetation meant that there wasn't any interception on the hill. This resulted in a flash flood. The water level was high of the river Valency and so the banks quickly burst – causing a river flood. Due to the fact it had been a long, hot summer prior to the flood, the soil was dry and saturated so the water couldn't infiltrate through the soil.

The flood affected many residents. Their houses and possessions were destroyed and they had to be moved into refugee camps. Buisnesses were destroyed and goods in local shops were saturated and no longer useful. Elderly people were trapped in their houses as they were not fit enough to escape and children were petrified. The food also caused the animals to lose their habitats.

Candidate E

Boscastle is located on the North Cornish coast. It is 14 miles south from Bude and 5 miles North east of Tintagel. The flood happened because low pressure swept in off the atlantic ocean and lifted up over Bodminmore and the hill Brown Willy. This caused an intense rain storm when 8 inches of rain fell in 8 hours. The flood was caused by the steep slopes of the valley, little vegetation cover, dry ground, the harbour wall and the inadequate drainage system. The steep slopes of the valley caused rapid run-off and as there was little vegetation cover there was a lack of interception so the water ran off rapidly causing flash floods on the surface. Because the ground was so dry the water wasn't infiltrated and ran off. The harbour wall blocked the water from escaping and the inadequate drainage system couldn't cope with the volume of water. Also there was no flood plan and people hadn't experienced this before.

This affected the people living in Boscastle because 75 cars, 5 caravans and several boats were washed away. Businesses were destroyed and homes were completely flooded This especially affected older people as they are more vulnerable and had to be looked after carefully. Also the people who owned the businesses were affected a lot because some were completely destroyed which look them a lot of money and would cost a lot to repair.

Commentary for Higher tier case studies

Cand	Level	Mark	SPaG	Comment
A	2	4	3	The candidate makes only one unique description that locate this case study in the Brecon Beacons (only Beacons bus). However, they have correctly applied specific concepts to this upland case study such as footpath erosion and honeypot sites which bring it firmly into top level 2.
B	1	2	2	The candidate locates the case study (albeit inaccurately) in their opening line but does not add any further specific detail about the location. Neither do they apply any concepts / processes that would be specific to their chosen case study (as candidate A did). They therefore remain in level 1.
C	1	1	2	This candidate fails to locate the case study and they only provide very generic points of either description or explanation) that could apply to almost any flood. They therefore remain in level 1.
D	3	6	3	The candidate begins by showing good understanding of the causes of the flood that includes the correct application of specific concepts/processes such as surface run-off and interception. There is even some unique place related detail in 'low pressure from the Atlantic Ocean'. The description is detailed although not especially unique to Boscastle. So, the candidate is secure in reaching top of level 3 (in the first page) but does not add enough specific and unique detail to enter level 4.
E	4	8	3	This candidate locates the case study accurately and provides a balanced account in that both the description and explanation are detailed and sophisticated. There are plenty of examples of the application of a relevant specific concept / process as well as a range of detailed and unique facts that only apply to this case study.