

GEOGRAPHY COMMAND WORDS

Command	How do I respond in my writing ?
Annotate	Annotations are extended labels. When annotating, you should write brief descriptive or explanatory sentences linked to features referenced in the question.
Assess	Like analyse, assess means to break the theme of the question down into parts but offer your opinion on the successes and failures to reach an informed judgement.
Calculate	You need to use the data (numbers) within the question, or resource that the question is based on, and apply a mathematical function to get your answer.
Compare	An effective comparison will make clear references to both similarities and differences between the items within the questions.
Complete	You are directed to use information available to you (a resource with the question or your knowledge) to finish a task. This is most commonly linked to cloze paragraphs (a.k.a. gap-fill) style questions.
Contrast	Writing to show contrast will make clear references to just differences between the items within the questions.
Describe	Write details of what the feature/item or theme are like within the question. Do not explain as a description requires no explanation.
Discuss	Describe and explain a balance of the similarities and differences, or positives and negatives of whatever the question is about. Evidence is important to include—as is your opinion. Always add a conclusion to summarise your discussion.
Draw	Using a pencil, produce a simple diagram (plan view/cross-section/ field sketch or box style) of the theme within the question. Quite often, you will be asked to label or annotate your drawing too
Evaluate	Systematically break down the theme of the question to make an informed judgement supported by evidence for the strengths, weaknesses (or limitations), opportunities to improve a way of working or concept, to reach conclusions.
Explain	Give reasons for why something is like it is. Write in a way that shows cause and effect. The words 'because', '...as a result', '...this is due to', 'consequently' should be in your writing.
Identify	Identify the name of a feature or item referenced in the question. Synonyms are: give/name or state.
Label	Labelling is simply naming features or parts of something; these are not sentences

Justify	Write a convincing argument to reach a conclusion supported by evidence.
Outline	Give a brief overview of the whole theme of the question. You can describe or explain just the main points in limited detail. The amount you write depends on the amount of content within the question.
Plot	Add data (results or values) onto a graph. Read the axis labels carefully to understand the units. If present, your plotted data should 'look' like the other data already present on the graph.
Suggest	Explain a possible reason for theme of the question. 'Suggest' questions are asking you to put forward an idea you have.
To what extent	The question is asking how far you agree with something—from fully agree to totally disagree—often a statement or a quote for example. Give your opinion immediately and examine arguments that support and discount your opinion. Support with evidence to reach a conclusion.

GEOGRAPHY ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

AO1	Demonstrate knowledge of location, places, processes, patterns, environments at different scales
AO2	Demonstrate geographical understanding of concepts and how they are used in relation to places, environments and processes; interrelationships between places, environments and processes.
AO3	Application of knowledge and understanding to interpret, analyse and evaluate information and issues to make judgements.
AO4	Select, adapt and use a variety of skills and techniques to investigate questions and issues and communicate finding.

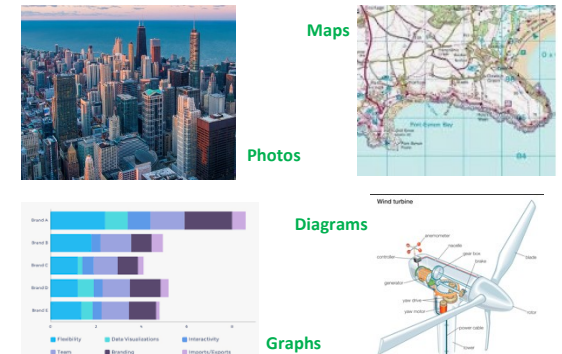
Assessment Objectives are the ways that your knowledge of the subject could be assessed using the command words. For example, the command word 'explain' would be AO2, and 'evaluate' would be AO3.

ADDITIONAL EXAM SKILLS

'Study figure X...'

The majority of questions in geography GCSE exam papers have a linked resource for you to include in your answer - such as photo, graph, map, diagram or set of data. Before you even get to the question, you are commanded to '**study**' the resource; they've essentially given you something to use in your answer—so study it well to find the best bits to include!

Examples of 'Figures' in exams:



'Using a case study or an example you have studied...'

When commanded to '**use an example**' in a question response, you must try to link your knowledge to a real world example as evidence to demonstrate that you have understand beyond just a theory or idea.

In addition to learning lots of 'examples' at GCSE level, you will learn a small selection of detailed 'case studies'; these cover knowledge of specific important geographical events or phenomena, or important places. Unlike 'examples', you will definitely get examined on your knowledge of 'case studies' at GCSE level