AQA GCSE Case studies and examples

Paper 1- Living with the Physical environment

The challenge of natural hazards

Specification	Case study/Example
Named examples to show the effects and	New Zealand and
responses to a tectonic hazard between two	Nepal
areas of contrasting levels of wealth	
Use a named example of a tropical storm to	Hurricane
show its effects and responses.	Katrina
An example of a recent extreme weather event	Somerset Levels
in the UK to illustrate:	
• causes	
• social, economic and environmental impacts	
 how management strategies can reduce risk. 	

The living world

An example of a small scale UK ecosystem to illustrate the concept of interrelationships within a natural system	Epping Forest
A case study of a tropical rainforest to illustrate: • 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.	Amazon Rainforest
A case study of a hot desert to illustrate: • development opportunities in hot desert environments: mineral extraction, energy, farming, tourism • challenges of developing hot desert environments: extreme temperatures, water supply, inaccessibility.	Western Desert region in the USA

Physical landscapes in the UK

An example of a section of coastline in the UK	Swanage
to identify its major landforms of erosion and	
deposition.	
An example of a coastal management scheme	Medmerry
in the UK to show:	Managed
 the reasons for management 	Retreat,
 the management strategy 	Walton on the
 the resulting effects and conflicts 	Naze
An example of a river valley in the UK to identify	River Tees
its major landforms of erosion and deposition.	
An example of a flood management scheme in	River Ouse
the UK to show:	(Yorkshire)
 why the scheme was required 	
 the management strategy 	
 the social, economic and environmental 	
issues.	

Paper 2: Challenges in human environment

Urban Issues and challenges

A case study of a major city in an LIC or NEE to illustrate:	Rio/Lagos
• the location and importance of the city, regionally, nationally	
and internationally	
• causes of growth: natural increase and migration	
 how urban growth has created opportunities: 	
• 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 greated shallonges:	
How urban growth has created challenges:	
managing urban growth – slums, squatter settlements providing class water sanitation systems and energy	
providing clean water, sanitation systems and energy providing access to services the providing access to services.	
• providing access to services – health and education	
reducing unemployment and crime managing anvironmental issues. Waste disposal, air and water.	
managing environmental issues – waste disposal, air and water mallution traffic connection	
pollution, traffic congestion.	Facilia Daimor Doctor (1
An example of how urban planning is improving the quality of life	Favela Bairro Project/
for the urban poor.	Makoko Floating
	School
A case study of a major city in the UK to illustrate:	London
• 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:	
 social and economic: cultural mix, recreation and entertainment, 	
, ,	
employment, integrated transport systems	
environmental: urban greening	
How urban change has created challenges:	
• social and economic: urban deprivation, inequalities in housing,	
education, health and employment	
• environmental: dereliction, building on brownfield and	
greenfield sites, waste disposal	
i e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e	
• the impact of urban sprawl on the rural—urban fringe, and the	
• 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:	London
 reasons why the area needed regeneration 	docklands/Shoreditch
• the main features of the project.	

The changing economic world

An example of how the growth of tourism in an LIC or NEE helps to	Jamaica
reduce the development gap.	
A case study of one LIC or NEE to illustrate:	Nigeria
• the location and importance of the country, regionally and globally	
• the wider political, social, cultural and environmental context within	
which the country is placed	
• 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.	
An example of how modern industrial development can be more	Car Industry in
environmentally sustainable	UK

The challenge of resource management

An example of a large scale water transfer scheme to show how its	China: South
development has both advantages and disadvantages.	North Water
	Transfer
An example of a local scheme in an LIC or NEE to increase sustainable	Hitosa
supplies of water.	