

Geography essay planning and writing mat

Use these guidelines to help you plan and write your answers to the longer mark GCSE questions.

	Why? What's important?	Sentence starters.
Point	<p>This needs to be one sentence that is clear and concise.</p> <p>e.g. Primary effects such as death are significant impacts of a natural hazard.</p> <p>Define any key words in no more than one sentence.</p> <p>e.g. primary effects are those effects that happen immediately during or after the event.</p>	<p>Firstly, secondly, finally...</p> <p>On one hand / on the other hand / overall...</p> <p>Furthermore / also / moreover...</p> <p>To begin with...</p>
Evidence / example	<p>Give an example or some evidence, the more specific you are the better you will perform overall. Remember 6 and 9 markers are marked holistically. This should be roughly one sentence.</p> <p>e.g. in Nepal an earthquake of high magnitude struck and killed 9000 people.</p>	<p>This means that...</p> <p>Therefore...</p> <p>This causes / this results in...</p> <p>This leads to / links to...</p> <p>Consequently...</p>
Explanation	<p>Explain how your point answers the question. Use the 'so what' effect. Always go into detail, aim for 2-3 sentences.</p> <p>e.g. death is a significant primary effect as people die (so what?), which leaves families devastated (so what?). This may affect the mental health of people and hinder the recovery of its country.</p>	<p>For example...</p> <p>For instance...</p> <p>Such as...</p> <p>This links to...</p> <p>As seen by / in...</p> <p>In the case of...</p>
Criticism	<p>Most 6 and 9 mark questions will expect a significant level of evaluation for top marks as it asks you to discuss, evaluate, assess, justify or to what extent you agree.</p> <p>Using one sentence to criticise your point will show you are a skilled Geographer and can be evaluative.</p>	<p>However...</p> <p>On the other hand...</p> <p>Although...</p> <p>Alternatively...</p> <p>To criticise...</p>
Evaluation	<p>This is where you link your 5 or 6 sentence paragraph back to the question by stating what you think overall and how your response answers the question.</p>	<p>Overall...</p> <p>To summarise...</p> <p>In conclusion...</p> <p>I believe that...</p>

Remember:

1. Read the question	2. Identify the command word	3. Speak like a geographer	4. Use examples / case studies
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Always look at the marks. If it is a 9 marker, three PEECE paragraphs are needed as it will expect you to consider multiple aspects. You will also be expected to draw **conclusions**.