



Penistone Grammar School

Never Stop Flying

Principal: Mr P Crook (B.Ed Hons)

Huddersfield Road, Penistone, Sheffield, S36 7BX

www.penistone-gs.uk

enquiries@penistone-gs.uk

01226 762114

@PenistoneGS

Achieving Excellence through a Values Driven Education

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope this message finds you well. As your child's Geography teacher, I would like to take this opportunity to provide important information regarding their upcoming GCSE Geography exams. With the exams approaching, it is crucial that all students are fully prepared to perform at their best.

Paper 1 – Living with the Physical Environment – 14th June

The first exam, Paper 1, will take place on Monday, 14th June. This paper is worth 35% of the GCSE and consists of 88 marks, including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar, and specialist terminology (SPaG).

It covers three sections: *The Living World*, *Challenges of Natural Hazards*, and *Physical Landscapes*. Following Friday, 21st March, your child should have all their Paper 1 resources at home. These will include their exercise books, past paper questions, case study flashcards with relevant information for 6 and 9-mark questions, and additional revision materials. Please encourage your child to keep these resources organised for effective revision.

Some students are currently missing exercise books covering key topics such as *The Living World*, *Challenges of Natural Hazards*, and *Physical Landscapes*. If your child has any of these books at home, I kindly ask for your support in locating these materials to aid their revision ahead of the exam.

Paper 2 – Challenges in the Human Environment – 6th July

The week commencing the 24th March, we will begin focusing on Paper 2, which is also worth 35% of the GCSE, consisting of 88 marks (including 3 marks for SPaG).

The key topics for this section are *Urban Issues and Challenges*, *The Changing Economic World*, and *Challenges of Resource Management*.

Similar to Paper 1, some students are missing exercise books for these topics. Please encourage your child to locate and use these books for their revision. I have also set homework tasks requiring students to bring the relevant books to each lesson over the next two weeks.

With the Paper 2 exam on 6th July, students have ample time to consolidate their learning. In class, we will create case study flashcards and focus on revision techniques to help students prepare effectively.



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Paper 3 – Issue Evaluation, Fieldwork, and Geographical Skills – 12th July

Paper 3, which will be held on 12th July, accounts for 30% of the GCSE. This paper covers *Issue Evaluation*, *Fieldwork*, and *Geographical Skills*, and includes multiple-choice, short-answer, levels-of-response, and extended prose questions.

After the Easter holidays, we will begin working through the *Pre-Release Resource Booklet*, which is a key aspect of this paper. This will provide students with an opportunity to work through the resources and become familiar with the material. Please note that students will not be allowed to take the original booklet which we will annotate in lessons into the exam room, but they will be issued with a clean copy during the exam.

The assessment will consist of a series of questions related to contemporary geographical issues, culminating in an extended piece of writing that involves making an evaluative judgement. Students will need to apply their knowledge and understanding to interpret, analyse, and evaluate the information and issues presented in the pre-release booklet and the exam paper. They will also use geographical skills to set the issues in context and examine conflicting viewpoints on the topic.

Additionally, this paper will assess students on their fieldwork experiences in Penistone from September, covering both human and physical fieldwork.

Effective Revision Techniques

It is important that students engage in active and purposeful revision. This involves more than simply reading or copying notes. I recommend techniques such as self-testing with flashcards, creating mind maps, and actively recalling information. Effective strategies are flashcards or to create a mind map for a topic and then attempt to recreate it from memory, adding any missed details in a different colour. Active recall and self-testing are proven methods for enhancing long-term memory retention and understanding.

Your continued support in helping your child prepare for their GCSE exams is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at enquiries@penistone-gs.uk, ensuring you mark it for my attention.

Thank you once again for your collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Scott

Geography Teacher

Penistone Grammar School