

Geography - Skills Checklist

Candidates should be required to develop a range of geographical enquiry skills (including where appropriate, the use of IT) namely:

- identification of geographical questions and issues and establishing appropriate sequences of enquiry;
- identification and collection of evidence from primary sources (including fieldwork) and secondary sources, and recording and presenting it;
- description, analysis and interpretation of evidence, drawing conclusions and communication of findings;
- evaluation of the methods of collecting, presenting and analysing evidence as well as the validity and limitations of evidence and conclusions.

In order to achieve the route to enquiry, candidates will be required to display an understanding of the limitations of the source materials, the understanding and application of geographical principals, the ability to make judgements and communicate conclusions with regard to the following:

Ordnance Survey maps at all scales: (NB the map extract for Section A of Written Component One will be from either a 1:25 000 or 1:50 000 map): recognise symbols; find locations by four and six figure grid references; measure accurately straight line and distances; recognise direction and annotate cross-sections; generalise about differences in height and degree of slope; recognise simple contour patterns; recognise and describe fluvial and glacial features; describe drainage patterns and identify watersheds; generalise on the location, extent and distributions of vegetation and land use; describe and comment upon patterns of communication and settlement; infer human activity from map evidence; use maps in association with aerial/oblique photographs.

Atlas maps: describe and relate in a simple way generalised distributions of physical and human patterns.

Weather maps: describe weather conditions indicated by weather symbols, identify frontal systems and anticyclones.

Topological diagrams: read and understand inferences from simplified maps, including those based on time or cost.

Photographs: (aerial/oblique and satellite) examine photographs of urban and rural landscape: describe main features and identify relationships; interpret satellite photographs and images.

Graphical representation: understand limitations and interpret sketch maps, diagrams and field sketches.

Sketches: draw, understand and interpret sketch maps, diagrams and field sketches.

Written evidence: to communicate information by means of the written word.

Any of the above skills may be examined in Written Component One and Written Component Two. All maps and charts used in Section A of Written Component One will be provided with a key. In the coursework component, candidates should employ skills appropriate to the enquiry being undertaken.