Gairloch High School

“Geography is a subject which holds the key to our future”  
Michael Palin

The Big Book of Geography Studies

Ideas to inspire your N5, Higher or Advanced Higher Geography Assignment.

Glaciation

# General Studies

* Study a suitable area and look for evidence of glaciation.
* Study a suitable area and look for evidence of glacial erosion.
* Study a suitable area and look for evidence of glacial deposition.
* Compare and contrast two glaciated valleys in different areas.
* Compare and contrast an actual glacial valley with a textbook diagram of this.

# Glacial Features

* Study a group of drumlins.
* Determine the direction of ice movement down one, or several, valleys.
* What evidence of moraine can be found in your chosen area?
* Are aretes sharper-edged and steeper on N-E facing slopes?
* Do bottoms of U-shaped valleys often contain V-shaped secondary river beds?
* Using evidence (e.g. hanging valleys, truncated spurs) estimate the shape of the original, pre-glacial valley.
* To what extent are glacial valleys U-shaped?

# Corries

* Are smaller corries found at higher altitudes?
* Do larger corries have steeper back walls?
* What direction do most corries face?
* Are south-facing corries found at higher altitudes?
* What percentage of corries contain corrie lochans?
* Are lochans found mainly in smaller corries?



Slopes

# Different Bedrocks

* Do slopes on different bedrocks have different land uses?
* Are sheep mainly found on steep or permeable slopes?
* Ae cattle mainly found on gentle or impermeable slopes?
* Is soil depth less on impermeable slopes than on similar permeable ones?
* Is there a wider range of vegetation on impermeable slopes than on permeable ones?
* Do farmers prefer impermeable slopes?
* Is there a greater range of land-use on impermeable slopes?

# Different Aspects

* Do slopes with different aspects have different land uses?
* Is the vegetation on northern slopes of poorer quality?
* Is the vegetation lusher on eastern slopes?
* Is there a greater range of land-use on southern and eastern slopes?

# Different Gradients

* Does slope gradient affect land-use?
* Is soil depth down concave slopes different from that down convex slopes?
* Is a greater range of activities found on gentler slopes than on steep ones?
* Do farmers prefer gentle slopes to steep ones?

# Scree Slopes

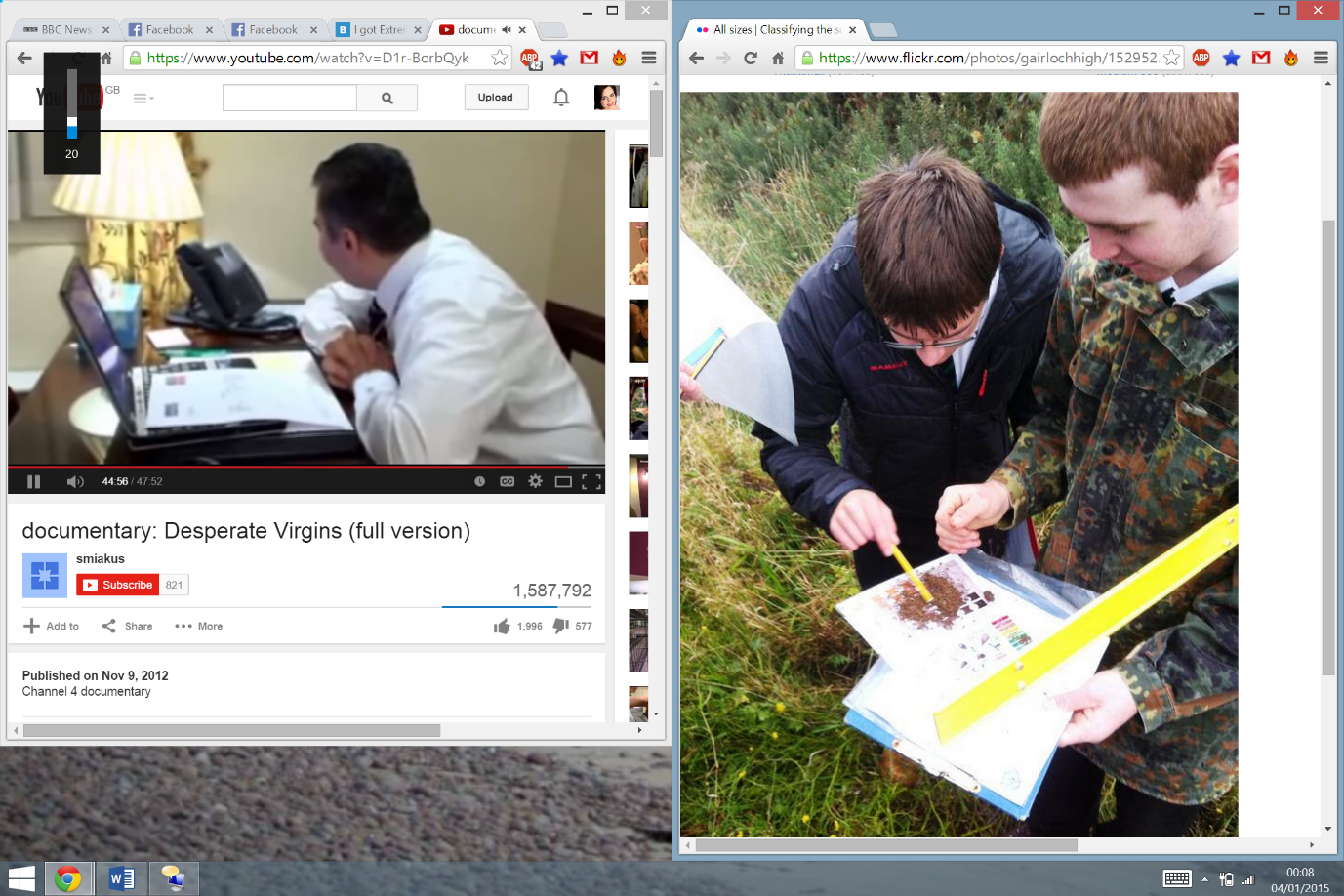
* Are scree types and distribution affected by slope gradient?
* What impact do humans have on scree slopes?
* Is the amount (size and depth) of scree greater towards the bottom of a slope?

# River Valleys

* Make a valley cross-section at the 3 stages of a river course. How does this compare with a diagram in a textbook?
* Compare a cross section of the upper stage of a river with a diagram of this in a textbook.
* Compare a cross section of the middle stage of a river with a diagram of this in a textbook.
* Compare a cross section of the lower stage of a river with a diagram of this in a textbook.

Soil

# Slopes & Soil

* Is soil wetter at the base of a slope?
* Is soil moisture related to texture?
* Is soil deeper on gentle slopes at the bottom of valleys?
* Is soil more acidic on steeper slopes?
* Does bedrock (geology) affect soil content?
* Does humus content vary down a slope?
* Is texture related to slope angle?
* How does acid level vary down a slope?
* How does chemical content vary down a slope?

# Vegetation & Soil

* Find two fields of uncultivated grass – one poor and the other good – what soil differences are there?
* Compare moorland soil with valley soil.
* Compare undisturbed land in various locations – near coast, meander etc.

# Land Use & Soil

* In what way does land-use affect soil composition?
* Survey soil in various parts of a farm and relate composition to use.
* What relationship exists between types of crop and soil?
* Do all wheat fields have similar soils?
* In what way does land-use affect compaction?
* Is there a relationship between soil compaction on footpaths and the number of people using them?

Rivers

# Entire River Projects

* Compare and contrast a textbook “model” of a 3-stage river course with an actual one.
* Try to locate the three stages of a chosen river by fieldwork investigation.
* How do stream characteristics vary along the river – width, depth, speed, efficiency, shape of valley, gradient?
* How does surface speed vary along a river?
* Compare surface speed down a river with gradient and cross-section.
* Does load become smoother and smaller downstream?
* Does the amount of deposition increase downstream?
* How does river-use change downstream – and why?
* Does commercial use of a river intensify downstream?
* Does recreational use of a river intensify downstream?

# River Section Projects

* By investigation in the field, describe river characteristics in the upper stage.
* By investigation in the field, describe river characteristics in the middle stage.
* By investigation in the field, describe river characteristics in the lower stage.
* How does discharge change downstream?
* How does width affect speed and discharge? – study two neighbouring sections of a river – one narrow and the other wide.
* Compare a meander with a neighbouring straight stretch of a river.
* How do depth, width and speed vary along one meander?



Vegetation

# General Vegetation Surveys

* Is type of vegetation linked to type of soil?
* Is type of vegetation linked to type of microclimate?
* Is type of vegetation linked to altitude?
* Is type of vegetation linked to gradient (i.e. slope angle)?
* Is type of vegetation linked to position on a slope?
* Is type of vegetation linked to aspect (i.e. slope direction)?
* Visit a farm and link crop types with crop requirements.
* Select a crop (e.g. wheat) and visit as many farms as possible seeing if there are similar soil factors.
* Compare and contrast the amount and type of vegetation in suburbs and towns.
* Compare and contrast a moorland with a meadow, and try to explain the variations.

# Woodland Surveys

* In a wood, is there a link between vegetation and variations in temperature distribution?
* In a wood, is there a link between vegetation and variations in drainage?
* In a wood, is there a link between vegetation and variations in soil pH?
* In a wood, is there a link between vegetation and variations in humus content?
* In a wood, is there a link between vegetation and variations in light intensity?
* Survey the distribution of a woodland’s tree types.
* Survey the distribution of a woodland’s tree ages.
* Survey the distribution of a woodland’s tree sizes.
* Survey the distribution of a woodland’s vegetation strata.
* What effect have humans had upon a chosen woodland? (e.g. trampling, planting, polluting, cutting)



Coasts

# Shorelines

* In an area of erosion, find evidence of what is causing it.
* In an area of deposition, find evidence of what is causing it.
* Study a spit and find evidence for how it was formed.
* Study a bay and find evidence of how it was formed.
* Study a headland and find evidence of how it was formed.
* How and why do cliff profiles vary along the coast?
* How and why do beach profiles vary along the coast?
* Contrast rock and beach shorelines – what features are found and how are they formed?
* Are pebbles near cliffs larger and more angular than those near the waterline?
* Measure the rate of longshore drift in one area.
* Is the effect of longshore drift constant during the year?
* Is the rate of longshore drift related to the strength and direction of wind and waves?
* Measure the rates of longshore drift in two contrasting areas and discover why there is a difference.

# Wave Action

* Study wave action along a shore – what coastal features are found?
* Compare wave action in two different areas and link this with features found there.
* Is wave direction and power related to wind speed and direction?
* Comparer normal wave action and effects with those during a storm.
* Compare waves in different seasons.

# General Observations

* Compare the tidal effect at two points – the distance range, the times, and the types of wave.
* How do shoreline steepness, slope, soil depth and compaction affect the formation of run-off gulleys?
* Map and measure the number and effect of all sea defences along a shoreline.
* What signs of rain run-off erosion are there on the shore?
* What evidence of pollution can be found along the shore?
* Study the trampling effects of pedestrians along a shore footpath – depth, width, compaction and use.
* Compare several paths down to the shore and relate erosion with type of use (e.g. access, recreation).

Water Cycle

# Evaporation

* Is evaporation greater with increased wind speed?
* Is evaporation greater with increased temperature?
* Is evaporation greater with increased hours of sunshine?
* Is evaporation greater on south-facing slopes?
* Is evaporation lower with increased cloud cover?
* Is evaporation lower with higher relative humidity?
* Does evaporation vary with the type of nearby vegetation?
* Does evaporation vary with the amount of nearby vegetation?
* How does evaporation affect the water level of a lake or river?

# Interception

* Compare interception effects in different parts of a wood.
* Does interception vary according to type of vegetation strata?
* Does interception vary according to vegetation type?
* Does interception vary according to vegetation density (i.e. light readings)?
* Does interception vary according towind speeds?
* Does interception vary according to season?
* Does interception vary according to rainfall intensity?

# Infiltration

* Is infiltration greater on shallower slopes?
* Is infiltration greater higher up a slope?
* Is infiltration less with increased soil compaction?
* Is infiltration less with increased soil moisture levels?
* Does infiltration vary with proximity to water (i.e. near lochs, ponds, rivers)?
* Does infiltration vary with the seasons?
* Does infiltration vary according to the general weather?
* Does infiltration vary with types of nearby vegetation?
* Does infiltration vary with types of bedrock?
* Does infiltration vary with land-use?
* Does infiltration vary with soil type?

# General

* How does a heavy storm affect a river?
* Do different amounts of rain affect proportionately?
* Compare and contrast the effects of a storm on a large river and a small one.
* How do different sections of a river respond to a period of rain?
* How do different areas of a wood respond to rainfall?

Weather

# Weather Stations

* Is there more rainfall with low barometric pressure?
* Is there less rainfall with high barometric pressure?
* Is there high wind with low pressure?
* Does ground temperature vary more than air temperature?
* Is the coast milder and wetter compared with inland?
* Is there a difference between neighbouring highland and lowland weather?
* Is there a difference between temperatures in towns and in the countryside?
* Is there a difference in rainfall on the west and east of slopes?
* Is there a difference in temperature and hours of sunshine on northern slopes compared with southern ones?
* Study a depression as it passes over a weather site.
* Study a warm or cold front as it passes over a weather site.
* In either of the above, what changes are there…
  + In cloud formation?
  + In wind speed and direction?
  + In barometric pressure?
  + In temperature?
* Compare weather changes during a depression or front with a textbook diagram of one.
* Study weather changes during a depression or front and explain their relationships.



# Microclimates

* Study the microclimate of a private garden.
* Study the microclimate of a school’s grounds.
* Is the northerly aspect of a house the coolest?
* Is northern ground temperature the coldest?
* What weather changes are there during the day in a valley?
* Compare weather changes in the valley with highland or flat lowland weather nearby.
* Is the weather at the bottom of a valley more changeable than up on the slopes?
* What effect does valley weather have upon land use found there?
* What temperature changes are there across a valley during the day?
* Is there a cold, warm, cold profile up a valley slope?
* Explain the temperature profile up the valley slope.
* Is the air colder at the bottom of a valley?
* Does aspect affect the microclimate of a valley?
* Does the north facing slope tend to be colder?
* Is the north facing slope damper?
* Does altitude affect the microclimate of a valley?
* What pattern of visibility is there at the bottom of a valley during the day?
* Does wind speed increase up a valley slope?
* What effect does a wood have upon the weather of a surrounding area?
* What effect does a wood have upon the weather of a surrounding area in different seasons?
* Do conifer woods have a greater impact on the weather of the surrounding area than deciduous woods.
* What effect does a loch have upon the weather of the surrounding area?
* Is the windward shore drier than the lee shore?
* Is the lee side cooler and wetter?
* Is fog or mist associated with lochs? If so, why?



Rural Land Use

# Farming

* Study several large farms. What sort, and range, of activities are found there and why?
* Study several small farms. What sort, and range, of activities are found there and why?
* Study farm sizes at different distances from a town? Are there any differences and if so, why?
* Compare land use of 15 farms in an area. What similarities and differences exist and why?
* Over a large area what types of farm exist and why?
* Compare two close farms. What differences exist and why?
* Is it true that large farms have a narrower range of activities?
* To what extent does farm practice vary with size?
* What effect does the use of machinery have upon the layout of a farm?
* Are farms producing perishable goods found closer to towns?
* To what extent does…
  + Relief affect land use on a farm?
  + Climate affect land use on a farm?
  + Geology (bedrock) affect land use on a farm?
  + Aspect affect land use on a farm?
  + Altitude affect land use on a farm?
  + Soil type and fertility affect land use on a farm?
  + Drainage affect land use on a farm?
  + Shelter from wind affect land use on a farm?
* Is more profitable land use found…
  + On level, well drained land
  + Closer to the farm house
  + Closer to towns
* Study the distribution of animals in a farm. Why are they found there?
* Study the distribution of crops in a farm. Why are they found there?
* Does agricultural land use become less intensive further away from the farm buildings?
* Does agricultural land use become less intensive further away from towns?
* Make an IPO study of a farm.
* Make a/an study of two similar farms – what differences and similarities exist and why?
  + IPO
  + Inputs
  + Processes
  + Outputs
* Do the same IPO studies as above comparing arable and stock farms.

# Forestry

* Compare forestry with arable farming. What similarities and differences exist and why?
* Describe the IPOs of two forests – one coniferous and one deciduous. What differences exist and why?
* Where do the products of a chosen forest go?
* Where are the forests found and why?
* How important is a forest to local employment?
* Compare the amount of coniferous and deciduous forests in an area. Is there a pattern to this distribution and if so, why?
* Are forests only found in upland areas?

# Quarries

* Where does a chosen quarry sell its goods?
* Describe the transport networks of a chosen quarry. What are they and why?
* What impact, benefits and problems does a quarry have upon the local area?
* How important is a chosen quarry to employment in the local area – both directly and indirectly?
* What attitudes do local people have towards a local quarry?



Villages

# Village Population

* Compare and contrast the position of two villages.
* Studying reasons and effects, compare and contrast two villages…
  + With different aspects
  + With different reliefs
  + At different altitudes
  + One sheltered; the other exposed
  + On different geological bedrocks
  + On different qualities of soil
  + With different road densities
  + One with railways: the other not
* Does a good position lead to the growth of a large village?

# Village Form

* Compare and contrast the form of two villages.
* Studying reasons and effects, compare and contrast two villages…
  + One linear: the other round
  + One compact: the other spread out
  + One formed around a central point: the other apparently shapeless
  + One on a river: the other not
* Compare and contrast a village with a “text book” village – explain the similarities and differences

# Village Function

* Compare and contrast two villages with apparently different functions.
* Compare and contrast two villages, one a tourist attraction and the other not. What effects are found?
* Compare and contrast a village having round the year tourism with one having seasonal tourism. What effects do these differences have?
* Compare and contrast two villages with apparently different… What are the differences and why do they exist?
  + Employment activities
  + Age structure
  + Housing
  + Services

# Village Development

* Compare and contrast two villages, one growing and the other declining.
* Compare and contrast a growing village with a declining one. What signs are there of people moving out or moving in?
* Compare and contrast a growing village with a declining one. What differences are there in...?
  + Population age structure
  + Ages of buildings
  + Services
  + Housing quality
  + Employment
  + Transport Use
  + Road Quality
* In a growing village there are more new buildings than in a declining one.
* In a growing village are there more building conversions than a declining one?
* In a growing village, how has the shape of the village changed?
* Compare and contrast two villages. What types of builds can be found and why are there differences?
* Compare and contrast two villages. What building materials have been used? Why are there any differences?

# Village Population

* Study two groups of people in a village (e.g. newcomers and long stayers). What similarities and differences exist in their…
  + Employment
  + Use of transport
  + Housing quality
  + Involvement in village activities
* To what extent is a chosen village self-sufficient in…?
  + Shopping facilities
  + Health facilities
  + Education facilities
  + Generally
* Study commuters in several villagers. Are there fewer commuters further away from the main town?

# Village Pollution

* Compare and contrast two streams (or different stretches of the same). What signs of pollution exist? What are their origins and what effects do they have?
* What litter patterns exist in a tourist village?



Urban Land Use

* Look through the project ideas for villages – most of these can be modified for town studies.
* Make … in two parts of a town – what differences do you note and why do they exist?
  + Urban transects
  + Urban land-use approximation surveys

# Distribution

* Plot the distribution of … in a town – is there any pattern and, if so, why does it exist?
  + Residential buildings
  + The types of residential building – terraced, semi-detached, detached, bungalow, flat
  + Commercial buildings
  + The types of commercial building – shop, market, office, bank, warehouse, garage
  + Public buildings
  + The types of public building – school, church, local government office
  + Transport facilities
  + The types of transport facilities – railway, bus station, airport, port
  + Entertainment facilities
  + The types of entertainment facilities – hotel, pub, café, theatre, cinema, leisure centre, arcade
  + Open space
  + The types of open space – farmland, park,. Cemetery, water, car park
  + Unused land
  + The types of unused land – waste land, derelict building, land being developed
* Compare one or all the above in two towns – what differences exist and why?

# Site, situation and shape

* Choose a town – how has the site affected its shape and growth?
* How has relief affected the shape and development of a town on a slope?
* How has flooding or its threat affected the shape and development of a town facing this problem?
* Choose a town with … - what residential building patterns are found?
  + Declining heavy industry
  + Growing modern industry
* Compare age of housing with street patterns.
* Are Victorian houses mainly found in grid shaped patterns?
* Are recent houses build in crescents and cul-de-sacs?
* Compare a town with an urban model. What evidence is there of…
  + Similarities and differences – why?
  + An upper-middle class zone on the west side?
  + Lower-middle class zones on the SW and NW?
  + Working class zones on the NE and SE sides?
  + Industry and slums on the east side?

# Function

* Compare two towns - …. What differences exist and why?
  + One a market town, the other not
  + One a tourist town, the other not
* What is the zone of influence of a market town?
* In a market town, where do the shoppers come from?
* In a market town, where do the sellers come from?
* Does a large market have a greater zone of influence over a smaller market?
* Find a town with new industrial estates – how has their presence affected the shape of the town?
* Take one type of… and plot all instances of it through a town – is there a pattern and, if so, why does it exist?
  + Shop
  + Services

# Hinterland

* Delimit the …. Hinterland of a town.
  + Average
  + Shopping
  + Visitor
  + Delivery area – department store, furniture store, laundry, local newspaper
  + Professional services – bank, vet, doctor, dentist, solicitor, optician, estate agent, travel agent
  + Membership – sports club, social club, societies
  + Educational – school, college, library
  + Employment
  + Public services – police, ambulance, fire station, library, hospital
* What effect does… have upon the hinterland of a town? [average or individual hinterland]
  + Relief
  + Rivers
  + Road networks
  + Neighbouring towns
* Compare the hinterlands of two similar settlements – what similarities and differences can be found – and why?
* Do people father away from the town travel more rarely into it?



Central Business District (CBD)

* Plot the CBD of a town using all available features.
* What pattern of … exists in a CBD and why?
  + Building heights
  + Pedestrian densities
  + Rates
  + Quality of shops and services
  + Shop frontage
  + First floor usage
* Compare a CBD with a textbook “model” – what similarities and differences exist and why?
* Are certain… found in clusters in a CBD – if so, which ones, and why do they do this?
  + Shops
  + Services
* Choose any type of … - plot it throughout the CBD – what pattern exists and why?
  + Shop
  + Office
  + Personal service
* What evidence is there of shops near the CBD trying to increase their frontage?
* Is there a relationship between the height of buildings in the CBD and their rateable index?
* Do towns with larger CBDs have larger hinterlands – choose two towns of different sizes?



Residential Land Use

# Surveys through town

* How does housing … change from the centre of a town to the edges?
  + Type
  + Condition
  + Environment
* Does … from the centre of a town to the edges?
  + The amount of modern housing increase
  + Housing density decrease
  + The size of garden increase
  + The quality of housing increase
  + The price of houses increase
  + The availability of garages increase
  + The number of people with high incomes increase

# Area Surveys

* Compare the presence of … with house types and quality
  + Alarm boxes
  + Neighbourhood watch schemes
* Obtain police maps of local break-ins – how does this compare with …?
  + House type and quality
  + The presence of alarm boxes
  + The presence of neighbourhood watch schemes
* Plot change of use in a town – where houses have been converted into offices. Is there any pattern?

# Estates

* Survey a housing estate – assess its quality, and compare this with …
  + Its reputation in the local area.
  + The type of people who live there
* Survey several housing estates …
  + What similarities and differences exist, and why?
  + And the people who live there – what similarities and differences exist, and why?
* Are … housing estates found farther away from the centre of town?
  + Better
  + More expensive

Commercial Land Use

# Retail

Most of these projects can be made more advanced by comparing the features with those of another town. Find similarities and differences and explain them.

* Choose particular types of shop through a town. Comment upon their presdence and distribution.
* Is it true that certain shops tend to cluster together? If so, explain why?
* Compare similar types of shop. How do customer counts vary with each shop’s position in a town?
* Is there any link between pedestrian density and type of shop?
* Plot the presence of boarded-up shops through a town. Comment upon their distribution – is there a pattern and, if so, what and why?
* Identify the retail groups through a town.
* Plot the position of Group 1 shopping areas in a town - what distribution patterns exist, and why?
  + Do the same for each of Groups 2, 3, 4 and 5.
* In a Group 1 retail area of a town – comment upon the presence and distribution of a specific types of shop there.
  + Do the same for each of Groups 2, 3, 4 and 5.
* Compare the site quality of each retail group in a town – what similarities and differences exist and why?
* Comment upon the site quality of Group 1 shops found in a town. Explain similarities and differences.
  + Do the same for each of Groups 2, 3, 4 and 5.
* Compare the catchment areas of each retail group in a town – what similarities and differences exist and why?
* In a chosen town, find a Group 1 area. Identify its catchment area and make comments.
  + Do the same for each of Groups 2, 3, 4 and 5.
* How does … compare with group type?
  + Volume of usage
  + Pedestrian movement
  + Site quality
  + Frequency of usage (how often used)
* Compare shopping site quality across all groups in a town. Explain similarities and differences.
* Identify the shopping hierarchy of a town. Comment upon presence and distribution.
* In a chosen town, find a Level 1 area. Identify its catchment area and make comments upon it.
  + Do the same for each of Groups 2, 3, 4 and 5.

# Offices

* Plot the distribution of … through a town. What pattern exists, and why?
  + Offices
  + Public offices
  + Business offices
  + Professional offices
  + Industrial offices
* Do some offices cluster more than others? If so, which ones and why?
* Survey office site quality through a town. What pattern exists and why?
* Identify the catchment area of … through a town.
  + Offices
  + Public offices
  + Business offices
  + Professional offices
  + Industrial offices

# Sports

You can do these comparisons for multiple and single facilities, too.

* What distribution of … facilities exist in a town? What pattern can you find – is there an explanation?
  + Public sports
  + Private sports
* Identify the catchment area of … sports facilities in a town.
  + Different types of
  + Public
  + Private
* Compare site quality with the position of sport facilities in a town.
* Compare site quality with the type of sports facilities in a town.

# Entertainment

Same as for sports – but the comparisons are (1) public compared with private, and (2) spectator with participator.

# Garages and hotels

* In a large town, does … father away from the centre?
  + The quality of garages/hotels deteriorate
  + The cost (charges) of garages/hotels lessen
* In a large town, how is the quality of garages/hotels related to the volume of passing traffic?
* Compare the distribution of garages and service stations through a large town – what patterns exist and why?

Industrial Land Use

# Single Industries

* Investigate a single large industry.
* Investigate a single large industry and identify…
  + The reasons for its siting.
  + Its impact on the local area.
  + Its impact on employment in the local area.
  + Its effect on other businesses – e.g. dependency
* What influence … upon the position of a factory?
  + Has access to market
  + Have transport networks

# Industry in a town

* Survey the distribution of industry in a small town.
* What evidence of industrial decay is there in a town?
* What evidence of industrial growth is there in a town?
* Compare a new industrial site with an old one – what differences exist and why?
* Compare two towns – what similarities and differences are found in the type and distribution of industries?
* Compare two contrasting industries – what similarities and differences exist and why?
* What evidence of pollution is there in a town?
* Choose one type of pollution and plot its distribution through a town, explaining its existence.

# Industrial Estates

* Investigate an industrial estate.
* For a chosen industry on an industrial estate, …
  + Why did it choose to be sited there?
  + What general benefits are gained by being there?
  + What benefits are gained by having industrial neighbours?
  + What transport benefit is gained by being there?



Recreational Land Use

# General Studies

* Compare two different types of town (heavy industry & light; residential & industrial, tourist & commuter). What differences and similarities in … exist, and why?
  + Sporting facilities
  + Entertainment facilities
  + Clubs and societies
* To what extent do people use recreational facilities nearest their homes?
* At recreation sites, do people cluster near attractions?
* Is there any relationship between the … of recreational facilities and the size of a town?
  + Types
  + Range/quality
* Study a community’s holiday preferences.
* Compare two contrasting communities – what similarities and differences are there in their types of holiday?

# Open Space

Open space means land to which the public has free access.

* Study the distribution and use of open space in a town.
* Measure and plot the catchment area of outdoor recreational facilities in your chosen area of study.
* Construct and study a hierarchy of open space in a town.
* Is there a wider range of activities in open spaces near the centre of a town?
* Is there any relationship between open space (size and range) and nearness to residential land?
* Compare and contrast the size and distribution of parks with playgrounds around a large town.
* Assess the potential of outdoor recreational facilities found in an area.
* What amenities does a rural area have for outdoor recreation?
* What differences do rural and urban areas have in outdoor entertainment facilities?

# Entertainment and Societies

* Study the types of entertainment in a town. What pattern exists and why?
* Compare two towns - … - what differences in entertainment or sports facilities are there and why?
  + One large; the other small
  + One residential; the other with heavy industry.
* Study the presence and distribution of societies in a town.

# Tourism

* What impact has tourism had on an area?
* Study the distribution of … in a tourism town – how is their type and distribution affected by tourism?
  + Shops
  + Entertainment
* Study the types of tourist attraction in a tourist town – how are they designed to attract tourists?
* Compare & contrast winter and summer in a tourist town.

# Sports Centres

* Study a major sporting complex.
* Assess the attraction potential of a sports complex.
* How busy are the different facilities in a sports centre?
* Measure and plot the catchment area of a sports complex.



Transport

# Route Networks

* Study … - what similarities and differences exist and why?
  + Route networks of two areas
  + Route networks of an urban area and a rural area
  + The route networks of a hilly region and a flat one
  + Rail networks of two large counties
* How is the route network of an area related to the …
  + Number of people living there?
  + Size of the villages and towns found there?

# Traffic Flows

* Study traffic flow … - what factors influence any differences of flow?
  + Through the day at a particular point in a town
  + Through the week at a particular point in a town
  + At different times of the year at a particular point in a town
  + Through the day along the main road through a town
  + Through the week along the main road through a town
* How many people travel in and out of a town – and using what transport?
* Where do visiting vehicles come from?
* Is there any link between purpose of visit and distance travelled?  
  How does weather affect transport flow through a town?
* Find areas of traffic hold-ups in a town – why do they occur?
* Study the congestion through a town – why does it exist at the trouble spots?
* Find out accident statistics from the local council. Is there any relationship between accident spots and …
  + Traffic flow?
  + Congestion points?
* How long do cars tend to stay parked in a town?
* Is there any connection between time parked and purpose of visit?
* Assess the distribution, quality and usage of car parking within a town.
* How adequate are a town’s car parking facilities?
* Do different types of town have different types of parking facility?
* Construct a hierarchy of car parking facilities through a town – if so, what and why?

# Public Transport

* Compare the time it takes to make journeys using different forms of transport.
* Compare bus services in two different areas.
* Plot the provision of bus stops through a town – is there any pattern, and if so what and why?
* How does bus service quality change as you move farther away from a town?
* Study the purposes people give for making their bus journeys?
* Use the index of sinuosity to compare village bus routes with town bus routes.
* Compare train networks in different parts of the country.
* Compare local train networks with intercity ones.
* Compare local train networks with intercity ones – what reasons do people give for using them?

# Alterations

* What effect has a new … upon traffic flow through a town?
  + By-pass
  + Roundabout
  + Traffic light system

# Terminus Studies

* Study an airport terminus.
* Compare and contrast two airport terminuses – one large; the other small.
* Do the same for ports, bus stations and rail stations.



Population

# Structure

* Make a population structure of a village.
* Make population surveys of two contrasting urban areas.
* When you …, what differences in population structure do you find and why do they exist?
  + Make a population survey of two villages
  + Compare a village with a town
  + Compare two housing estates – one private; the other council
  + Compare population pyramids in two villages; one growing, the other declining
* Do people in villages near towns … than those in villages farther away?
  + Stay there for shorter lengths of time
  + Tend to be younger, on average
  + Tend to be within a wider age range
* Do close friends usually live close to each other?

# Movements

* What means of transport are used for travelling to school/work – is there a pattern of distribution & type?
* Study the catchment area of a school.
* Study distances and means of travel to work in two contrasting areas.
* Is there any relationship between … and the type of employment?
  + Distance travelled to work
  + Types of holiday taken
* Is there any relationship between … and the house prices?
  + Distance travelled to work
  + Types of holiday taken
* Are people who move the greatest distances the most educated?
* Do most people move house only short distances?

