**PREPARING FOR AS CROWDED COASTS EXAM**

There are 3 types of questions you can expect in the exam [not necessarily in this order though]:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Data-stimulus questions** | **Focused on a figure, e.g. a graph or map** |
| **Fieldwork and research questions** | **Focused on the fieldwork and research you have done** |
| **Issues and management questions** | **Focused on a key piece of specification content** |

**Data-stimulus questions**

*This type of question is assessing your ability to:*

* Describe and analyse geographical data with accuracy and precision.
* Identify and describe patterns, distributions or trends.
* Explain geographical data using your own knowledge and understanding.
* Data-stimulus questions make direct reference to a figure.
* The stem of the question will say ‘Study Figure 2’ or similar.
* Most of your answer should be focused on the figure.
* You must be careful not to drift off task.

*You should look carefully at:*

* The title of the figure.
* Any scale, key, legend, orientation arrow.
* Any text or labels.
* If the figure is a map, look for patterns.
* If the figure is a graph or table, look for patterns, trends and anomalies.
* Read the question while looking at the figure.
* Together they are a ‘package’.

*Data stimulus questions are poorly answered when:*

* Answers focus on only one part of the figure.
* Answers ignore the figure, and instead write about case studies or other examples.
* The command word (describe, explain) is not addressed correctly, e.g. you are asked to explain (give reasons) but instead you describe.
* Answers are imprecise and fail to use data and information as part of the answer.

|  |
| --- |
| **Remember!**   * Careful observation of resource (could be map/chart, graph, table of data, photography, image, cartoon). * Know your command words. * Stand back: look for any trends, patterns or anomalies. * **Direct use of resource in your answer.** * Full coverage – detail and range of ideas. Balance of ideas – avoid ‘the fluff’! * Use of terminology. * If using a photograph provide points of reference, e.g. foreground, background, upper left, bottom right, etc. |

**Fieldwork and research questions**

* The 15-mark part questions make direct reference to fieldwork and research.
* These questions are often worded directly at you, e.g.   
  ‘your fieldwork and research’ or ‘the fieldwork and research you have undertaken’.
* This style of wording is unique to Unit 2.
* This is because you should discuss the primary and secondary data collection you have taken part in.

*This style of question needs to be carefully analysed. Such questions usually contain several different elements:*

* A command word (Describe in the example below).
* A part of the investigative process (planning).
* Both fieldwork and research.
* A topic that the fieldwork and research needs to be linked to (profiling a rebranded area).
* A place key word (rural or urban).

*Fieldwork and research questions benefit from spending a few minutes planning. This can be used to:*

* Decide on a place focus — urban or rural?
* Look at the investigative process word, e.g. planning, collecting data, results, conclusions.
* Think back to your own fieldwork and research, and jot down ideas based on your personal work.
* Consider the work you did that relates to the topic word (‘profiling a rebranded’ area in the example).

*The best answers to fieldwork and research questions have:*

* A balance of fieldwork (primary) and research (secondary) data.
* Specific reference to the places you carried out your fieldwork and research.
* Some detail on how you collected your data, or your results or conclusions, depending on the exact question.

|  |
| --- |
| **Remember!**   * Accurate reference to examples and real places visited is a way of giving ‘realism’. Locational detail likely to score highly. * Balance fieldwork and research. * Direct use of own work. * Awareness of limitations. * Use of methods, terminology, presentation, analysis * **Credit given for reference to: GIS [Geographic Information Systems], use of technologies and virtual fieldwork (e.g. on Google Earth), named web references, named local sources (e.g. newspapers, local authority, NGOs, etc.).** |

|  |
| --- |
| GIS  You should use GIS (Geographical Information Systems), such as Google Earth or Google Maps (and many others) as part of the investigative process. This might include:   * Using GIS to plan where data will be collected; at points or along transects. * Using GIS to collect secondary data, such as using the UK Census in digital map form. * Mapping your results by creating customised Google Maps. |

*Weaker answers tend:*

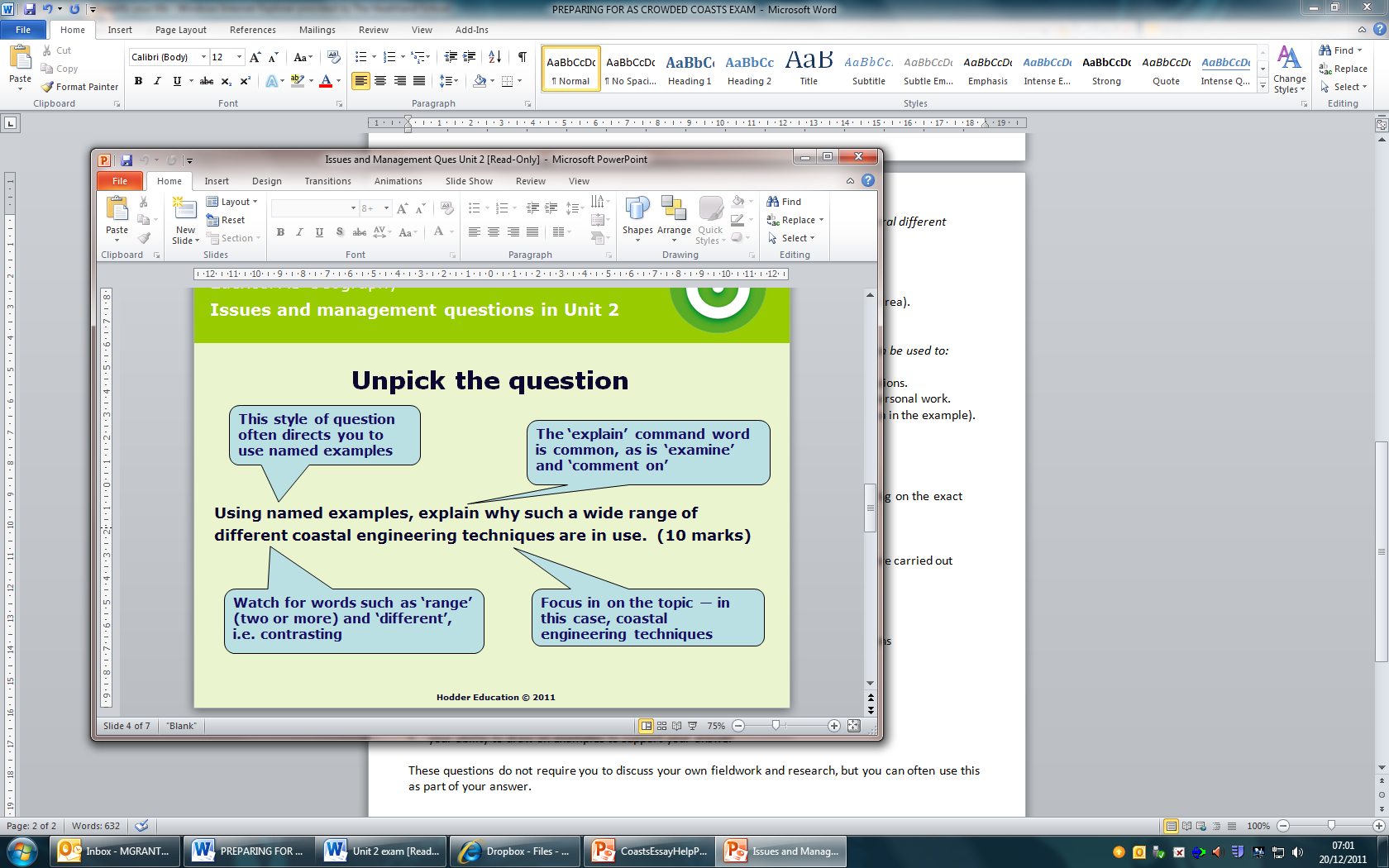
* to be very general, and not refer to specific places where fieldwork and research were carried out
* only to refer to fieldwork *or* research
* to describe a visit, e.g. ‘our day at the coast’ and not link this   
  to the topic in the question
* not to refer to a specific part of the investigative process
* to focus on a case study from a textbook, rather than a candidate’s own investigations

**Issues and management questions**

*This type of question is assessing:*

* your knowledge and understanding of the specification content
* your ability to draw on examples to support your answer

These questions do not require you to discuss your own fieldwork and research, but you can often use this as part of your answer.



* Issues and management questions will require some revision of   
  your class work.
* Take care to revise the detail of examples you have studied.
* Questions are best answered by using a range of examples rather than just one major case study.
* Remember that your fieldwork and research examples may be useful too.
* Issues and management questions tend to use key words from the specification.
* Often, these words are not well known to candidates.
* You should study the specification to make sure you understand all key words.
* Some examples: Storm surge, SMP, ICZM, Biodiversity, Geomorphology

|  |
| --- |
| **Remember!**   * Know your command words. * Full coverage – detail and range of ideas. Balance of ideas – avoid ‘the fluff’! * Use of terminology. |

**Moving up the marks**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | Details and judgements |
|  |  | Some explanation | Explanations |
|  | Some structure | Some structure | Structured / Balanced |
| A few descriptive points | Description linked to focus of Q | Description linked to focus of Q | Description linked to focus of Q |
| L1 | L2 | L3 | L4 |

**Know your command words!**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Describe** | What it is like – say what you see |
| **Explain** | Why is it like that (i.e. give reasons) |
| **Compare** | Similarities and differences |
| **Contrast** | Differences |
| **Distinguish** | Differences |
| **Evaluate /Assess/ Discuss** | Advantages and disadvantages OR arguments for and against |
| **Examine** | Describe AND explain |
| **Outline** | Describe AND explain |
| **Define** | The meaning of the word |

**E.g. from an unrelated topic:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| This is a **description** of where new power stations are going to be built. | This is an **explanation** of why power stations are built at the coast |
| *New nuclear power stations are often located close to existing power stations, such as Sizewell and Oldbury. Most are on the coast, and there are more in the West than the East. No new nuclear power stations seem to be planned for Scotland. There is a really large cluster of power stations close to the Lake District so it might become the Nuke District when they are built.* | *New nuclear power stations are going to be located mostly on the coast, as they can use seawater for cooling the reactor. Many are located in coastal areas with low populations, such as Sizewell and Wylfa, because there are fewer people to object to the power stations and fewer people would be affected if there was an accident.* |