

Pole of Cold (Extreme climate and Polar regions) GCSE Geography Specifications overview

GCSE Specifications are being revamped for 2016, but the current documents have the following connections with the Pole of Cold expedition and its outcomes.

Awarding Body Specification	Section	Specific details
AQA 'A'	<p>Unit 1: Physical Geography Section B: Ice on the Land</p> <p>Unit 2: Human Geography Tourism Extreme environments are susceptible to environmental damage from the development of tourism.</p>	<p>Ice is a powerful force in shaping the land as a result of weathering, erosion, transportation and deposition. Landscapes that are routinely affected by snow and ice attract tourists. This leads to conflict and issues over the use of such areas.</p> <p>GIS: Spatial changes in cold environments.</p> <p>A case study of one extreme environment and the extent to which it can cope with the development of the tourist industry.</p>
AQA 'B'	<p>Unit 2: Hostile World Section A: The Challenge of Extreme Environments What is the cold environment and how do people interact with it ?</p>	<p>Describe the global distribution of polar and tundra environments.</p> <p>Explain the factors affecting temperature and precipitation in polar and tundra environments and how these affect vegetation. Explain the effect of global warming on cold environments.</p> <p>Describe the ways in which people have exploited cold environments. What does the future hold for these fragile</p>

		<p>cold environments? Describe strategies and methods used to reduce problems in cold environments. Include the use of technology, the role of governments, international agreements and conservation groups. Explain why cold environments should be protected.</p>
Edexcel 'A'	<p>Unit 1: Geographical Skills Section B: Challenges for the Planet</p>	<p>The negative effects that climate change is having on the environment and people, including changing patterns of crop yield, rising sea levels and retreating glaciers on a local and global scale.</p>
Edexcel 'B'	<p>Unit 1: Dynamic Planet Topic 8: Extreme Environments What are the challenges of extreme climates ?</p>	<p>Investigate the climate of polar areas, including precipitation, temperature range, seasonality and variability. Examine why these are fragile environments, and how flora and fauna have successfully adapted to the extreme climates, but are also vulnerable to change. Investigate the adaptations people make in extreme environments, including farming methods, building styles, clothing, transport, energy use. Examine the culture and uniqueness of peoples living in extreme environments and the value of this culture to others.</p>
OCR 'A'	<p>Unit A371: Contemporary Themes in Geography Theme 1: Extreme Environments What do we mean by Extreme environments ?</p>	<p>Although the main focus is on hot deserts, and non-UK mountain environments (which could be connected with some parts of the Pole of Cold journey) the introduction of the unit is relevant. Understanding the various factors that define an extreme</p>

		environment: difficult for people to survive, hazardous, unstable, remote, harsh climate and landscape. Different ways people have responded to extreme environments over time.
OCR 'B'	3.4.3 Theme 3: Natural Hazards	Potential for extreme cold to be used in discussions of the impact of climatic hazards as an example of a natural hazard.
WJEC 'A'	No relevant content in the specification	
WJEC 'B'	No relevant content in the specification	

In many specifications, there is also a requirement to develop skills and carry out geographical enquiries. The Pole of Cold journey could be a context for this work.