

LITERACY MAT

Year 7 Geography



ST BERNARD'S
HIGH SCHOOL

LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU

KEY VOCABULARY

Contour Lines – Lines on a map that show areas of the same elevation, helping to represent the shape of the land.

Grid References – A system of letters and numbers used on maps to pinpoint exact locations, often using four or six figures.

Scale – The ratio between distances on a map and the actual distances on the ground, helping to understand the real size of features.

Biome – A large-scale ecosystem, such as a rainforest or desert, defined by its climate, plants, and animals.

Food Chain – A series of organisms each dependent on the next for food, showing how energy flows through an ecosystem.

Ecosystem – A community of living organisms interacting with each other and their physical environment.

Sustainability – Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Urbanisation – The increase in the number of people living in towns and cities compared to rural areas.

Migration – The movement of people from one place to another, which can be voluntary or forced, temporary or permanent.

COMMAND WORDS

Describe – Give details about what something is like, such as the features of a landscape or the pattern shown on a map.

Explain – Give reasons for something happening, often using cause-and-effect relationships.

Compare – Identify similarities and differences between two or more things, such as two ecosystems or countries.

Evaluate – Consider different points of view and make a judgment about how effective or important something is.

Identify – Pick out and name key features, patterns, or facts from a map, graph, or text.

KEY PUNCTUATION

Full stop (.)

To show the end of a sentence.

Comma (,)

To list or to separate clauses.

Exclamation mark (!)

To end a sentence and show shock or surprise.

Question mark (?)

To pose/end a question.

Apostrophe (')

To show possession or omission.

Speech marks (")

To show direct speech – the exact words spoken or quoted.

Colon (:)

To introduce a list, statement or quote in a sentence.

Semi colon (;)

To separate two sentences that are related and of equal importance.

Hyphen (-)

To separate extra information from the main clause by holding words apart

Dash (–)

To add extra information in the middle

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WRITING SUPPORT

Sentence starters – You may want to use the below for certain question types.

- **Describe:** "The main feature of this landscape is..."
- **Describing Trends:** "The graph is increasing/decreasing..."
- **Explain:** "This happens because..."
- **Compare:** "One key difference between X and Y is..."
- **Compare:** "Whereas..."

Keyword banks – You will receive key word banks and definitions for all topics, please use these.

Sentence connectives – Use linking words to improve the flow of writing, e.g., **therefore, consequently, in contrast, as a result, for example.**

Writing frames – Use structured templates like **PEE (Point, Evidence, Explanation)** or **PEEL (Point, Evidence, Explanation, Link)** to guide responses and ensure depth in answers.

KEY SKILLS

Using evidence – Support answers with facts, examples, or data (e.g., "The Amazon Rainforest has a high biodiversity because it receives over 2,000mm of rainfall per year.").

Structured paragraphs (PEE/PEEL) – Use a clear structure like Point, Evidence, Explanation (PEE) or Point, Evidence, Explanation, Link (PEEL) to develop answers logically.

Comparative language – Use words like similarly, however, whereas, on the other hand when comparing different places, processes, or features.

Cause and effect linking – Use phrases like 'this is because', 'as a result', 'due to', 'which leads to' when explaining why something happens.

Evaluative writing – When evaluating, consider both positives and negatives before making a judgment, using phrases like 'it is important to consider', 'a limitation of this is', 'overall, the most significant factor is...'

TOP TIPS

Learn key vocabulary – Geography has lots of important terms (e.g. erosion, biome, sustainability). Make flashcards or a glossary to help remember them.

Use maps and diagrams – Practise reading maps, using grid references, and understanding contour lines. Sketching simple diagrams can also help explain processes like the water cycle.

Answer questions fully – Use PEE (Point, Evidence, Explanation) to structure answers. For example, don't just say "Rainforests have high biodiversity"—explain why and give an example.

Stay curious – Watch documentaries, read news articles, and ask questions about the world around you. Geography is everywhere!

Revise with practice – Use past questions, quizzes, and revision games to test yourself. Try explaining topics to a friend or family member to check your understanding.