

Tackling a question that combines AO1 and AO2

Assessment Objectives (AOs) in Geography

AO1: Demonstrate knowledge of locations, places, processes, environments and different scales (15%).

Define, describe, identify, list, name, annotate, choose, distinguish between, locate, summarise.

AO2: Demonstrate geographical understanding of: concepts and how they are used in relation to places, environments and processes; the interrelationships between places, environments and processes (25%).

Explain, demonstrate, account for, argue, compare, contrast, discuss (using a case study), justify, suggest.

AO3: Apply knowledge and understanding to interpret, analyse and evaluate geographical information and issues to make judgements (35%, including 10% applied to fieldwork context(s)).

Evaluate, assess, analyse, apply, propose.

AO4: Select, adapt and use a variety of skills and techniques to investigate questions and issues and communicate findings (25%, including 5% used to respond to fieldwork data and context(s)).

Calculate, complete, interpret, create, draw, annotate.

Explain why deforestation occurs in tropical rainforests. (6 marks)

You are going to attempt a question that covers AO1 and AO2. The question (below) requires you to explain (give reasons) why deforestation occurs in the tropical rainforest.. It is a common style of question that can come up in GCSE Geography exams. The questions has been annotated to help work out what is being asked. You could do this in practice questions to help you get used to GCSE style questions.

AO2

You must explain (give reasons) how the activities lead to deforestation

AO1

You need to say what is causing deforestation

6 marks available so this is a levelled answer

Explain why deforestation occurs in tropical rainforests. (6 marks)

cutting down trees and using the land for something else

AO1

You need to show an understanding of deforestation e.g. know what it is and why it happens

AO2

Although the question asks for tropical rainforests in general you should give examples of actual places to demonstrate your knowledge of places.

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The next step is to have a go at answering the question. Deforestation happens for a number of reasons. The specification refers to farming – slash and burn and commercial ranching, logging, road building, mineral extraction and population pressure. There is a need to describe what one or more of these involves and to explain (by making a link) clearly to how it / they result in the forest being chopped down. An example has been written below:

Trees are cleared for many reasons. Commercial ranching is an important reason for chopping trees down in Amazonia. The trees make it look as if the soil is fertile and that grass will grow well, but once the trees are cleared to make way for large numbers of cattle, the soil loses its fertility. This means that the ranchers, who are interested in making money from their cattle, simply clear yet more of the forest and turn the cattle on to other areas. In addition to this, building roads means that trees have to be chopped down to allow construction. This then makes areas accessible and encourages further deforestation e.g. corridors are developed along railways in Amazonia between Sao Luis and Maraba where there are saw mills so that the products can be taken to be sold.

Using the mark scheme below we can see that this is a level 2 (clear) answer which would be awarded 6 marks.

Level	Marks	Description
1 (basic)	1-4	AO1 - demonstrates limited knowledge of deforestation in rainforest areas AO2 - demonstrates a limited understanding of processes of deforestation and the relationship between human activity and deforestation
2 (clear)	5-6	AO1 - demonstrates accurate knowledge of the human activities lead to deforestation to support the explanation AO2 - demonstrates a clear understanding of processes of deforestation and the relationship between human activity and deforestation

Now it is your turn:

Explain the causes of deforestation in the tropical rainforest (6)