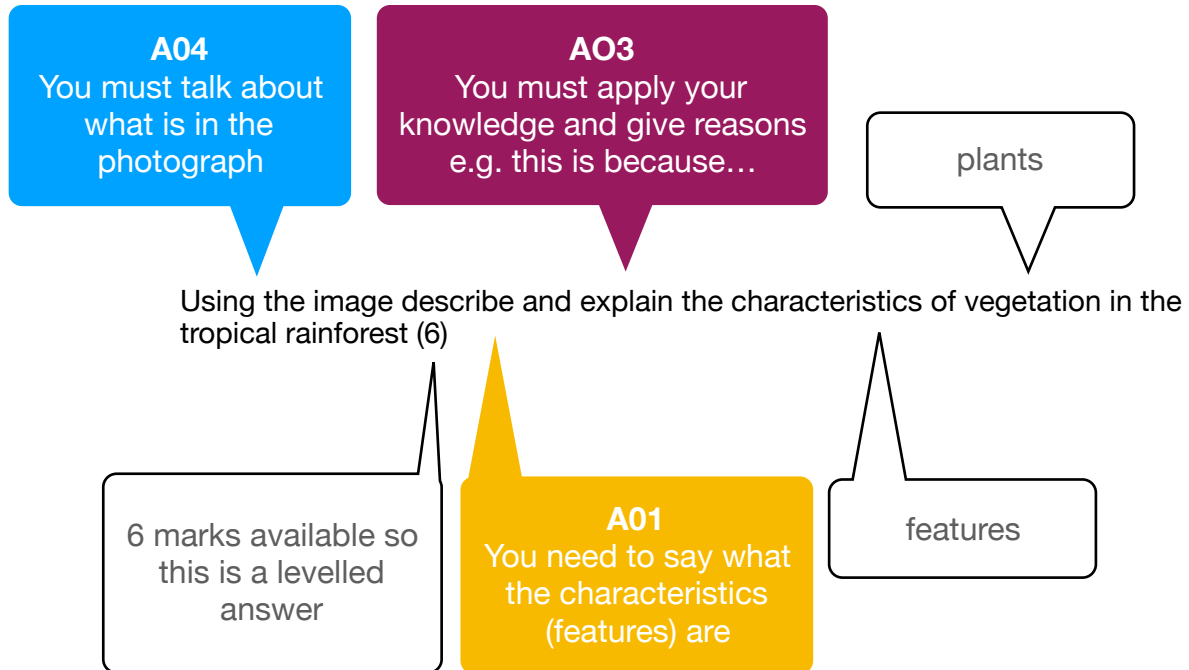


Tackling a question that combines AO1, AO3 and AO4

Using the image describe and explain the characteristics of vegetation in the tropical rainforest (6)

You are going to attempt a question that covers AO1, AO2 and AO4. The question (below) requires you to describe features of the vegetation and explain (give reasons) for the features. It is a common style of question that can come up in GCSE Geography exams. Below we have annotated the question to help work out what is being asked. You could do this in practice questions to help you get used to GCSE style questions.



Next, we will look at the image and identify the characteristics (features) of the vegetation. In the exam you could quickly jot down some notes to help you.



Tackling a question that combines AO1, AO3 and AO4

The next step is to have a go at answering the question. You should describe a characteristic (feature) of the vegetation then explain (give reasons) for these. Your answer should include description and explanation. There should be clear evidence that the photograph has been used. An example has been written below:

Due to the high rainfall, leaves often have drip tips which allow the water to be channelled to the end and fall so the leaf does not break. Leaf stems are also flexible to allow leaves to move with the sun. The bark on the trees is thin and smooth to allow free flow of water and because the high temperatures mean that there is no need for protection against cold. Also the smooth trunks stop plants such as the strangler fig from attaching itself to the tree. The leaves have waxy surface that protects against the heat. Some plants, such as lianas, climb up the trees to reach sunlight for photosynthesis, while others live on branches in the canopy for the same reason i.e. epiphytes. Large wide, buttress roots support the trees as they grow incredibly tall (over 50 m in some cases) as there is great competition for sunlight.

Using the mark scheme below we can see that this is a level 3 (detailed) answer which would be awarded 6 marks.

Level	Marks	Description
3 (Detailed)	5–6	AO3 Applies detailed knowledge of rainforest vegetation to interpret the features identified. AO3 Clearly relates characteristic(s) shown in the photograph to the climate of tropical rainforest environments.
2 (Clear)	3–4	AO1 Demonstrates accurate knowledge of the features of vegetation and climate to support the explanation. AO4 Makes clear and effective use of the photograph
1 (Basic)	1–2	AO1 Demonstrates limited knowledge of vegetation and climate in rainforest areas AO4 Makes limited use of the photograph
	0	No relevant content.

Now it is your turn:

Using the image below describe and explain the characteristics of vegetation in the tropical rainforest (6)

