



Topic Tests for AS and A Level

AQA Geography:

Glacial Systems and Landscapes

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Teacher's Introduction

This resource has six tests on *Section 3.1.4: Glacial systems and landscapes* of the AQA AS (7036) and A Level (7037) Geography specification. Every key aspect of the specification is covered in this resource.

These topic tests are designed to test the students' knowledge and enable the teacher to diagnose the students' strengths and weaknesses in certain areas. Each test covers a range of question types, and there is a wide variety of stimulus material. These tests are not intended to mimic exam papers; answers do not necessarily match AQA's standard command word mark allocation. The resource is designed to be co-teachable with both AS and A Level students.

Remember!

Always check the exam board website for new information, including changes to the specification and sample assessment material.

Mark schemes for each topic test can be found at the back of this resource. For 'closed' questions, where only one answer is acceptable, a model answer has been provided. For 'open' and extended questions, indicative content has been included.

When to Use This Resource

This resource can be used at the end of a particular topic area, or at the end of the whole unit in order to enable consolidation of knowledge. The students can also use the tests towards the end of the course, to assess knowledge either before or after revision. There is scope to provide your students with one test every two weeks if teaching the A Level course over two years.

How to Use This Resource

The tests can be completed individually in class, or set as homework tasks. The tests can be quickly marked by the student or the teacher, at home or in the classroom, as answers are provided.

These structured tests provide an opportunity to mark and score students in order to monitor progress. The tests are provided in a non-write-on format.

The Benefits to the Students

Students can be confident they have been tested on every key aspect of the specification. After completing a test, they will know which areas they are strong in, and which require further work, and can set their own goals for future learning. The answer sections also provide students with an indication of what a good answer entails.

Differentiation

In order to support lower-ability students while pushing the more able, each test has been written in two sections.

- The first section has approximately 40 marks and has been written to test knowledge of the core elements of the specification.
 - These questions are for all students and the difficulty or complexity of questions generally increases throughout the test.
- The second section has approximately 10–12 further marks of extension questions for higher ability students.
- The final test draws from themes from the whole topic. This test would be ideal as an end-of-topic activity, and to identify gaps in the students' knowledge.
- The final test also contains two long-answer, exam-style questions – one for AS Level and one for A Level.

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* resulting from minor specification changes, suggestions from teachers and peer reviews, or occasional errors reported by customers

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Test 1 – Glacial Systems

1. Define the term 'system'.
2. Describe each of the following components of a system:
 - Elements
 - Attributes
 - Relationships
3. Name four common characteristics of systems.
4. Name three types of system that can operate and give a definition for each.
5. What is meant by dynamic equilibrium?
6. Explain what is meant by positive and negative feedback cycles.
7. Give an example of a natural positive feedback cycle and an example of a negative feedback cycle.
8. Explain how the earth can be understood as a cascading system.
9. What kind of system is a glacial system?
10. Give an example of an input, a store and an output of a glacial system.
11. Explain how a glacial system can be a positive feedback cycle.
12. What is the difference between the concepts of 'landscape' and 'landform'?
13. Give four common landforms that might be found in a glaciated landscape.

Extension Questions

14. Explain the effects of positive feedback cycles in glacial landscapes.
15. Assess the importance of understanding the systems approach when studying glacial systems.

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Test 2 – The Distribution and Character of Cold Environments

- Name the four types of cold environment.
 - Describe the current distribution of these environments.
 - Name the distinguishing characteristic of each of these four environments.
- Describe and explain the climate of the polar regions.
- Describe the vegetation that can be found in the tundra.
 - Describe the type of soil found in the tundra.
 - Explain how this vegetation has adapted to the climate and soil of the tundra.
- Describe what is meant by glacial and interglacial periods.
- Study the map below.
Compare the distribution of cold environments in the present day to that of the last glacial maximum.

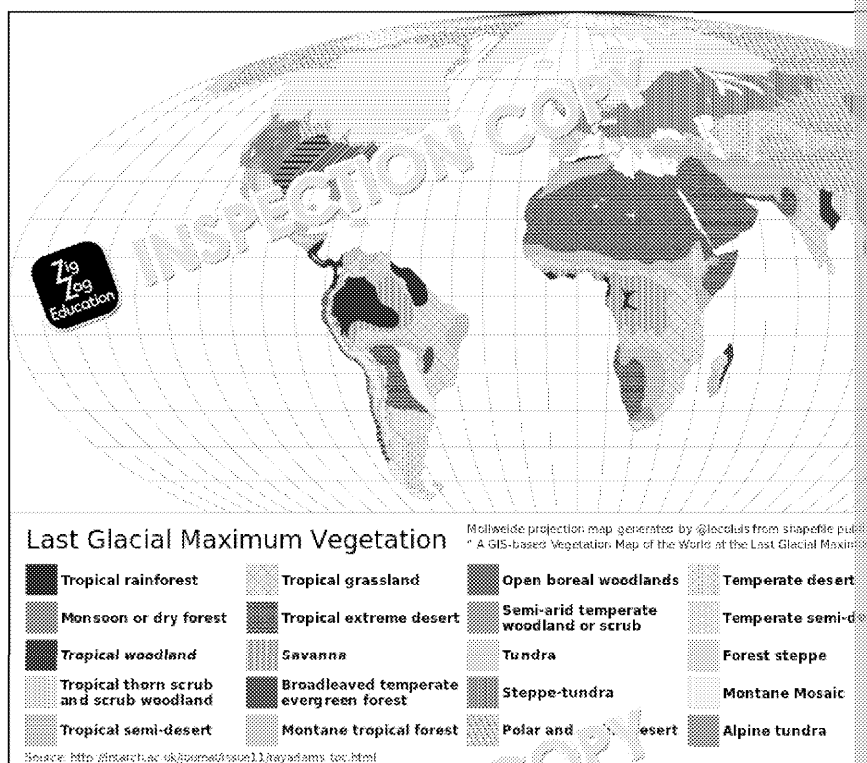


Figure 1 Vegetation cover in the last glacial maximum

Extension Questions

- Explain how the climate of cold environments affects the soil and vegetation.
- Assess the importance of understanding past distribution of cold environments.

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Test 3 – Glacial Processes and Systems

1. What happens in the ablation zone?
2. Explain what is meant by the glacier budget.
3. How does the glacier budget vary throughout the year?
4. Study the image below of the Jakobshavn glacier in Greenland.

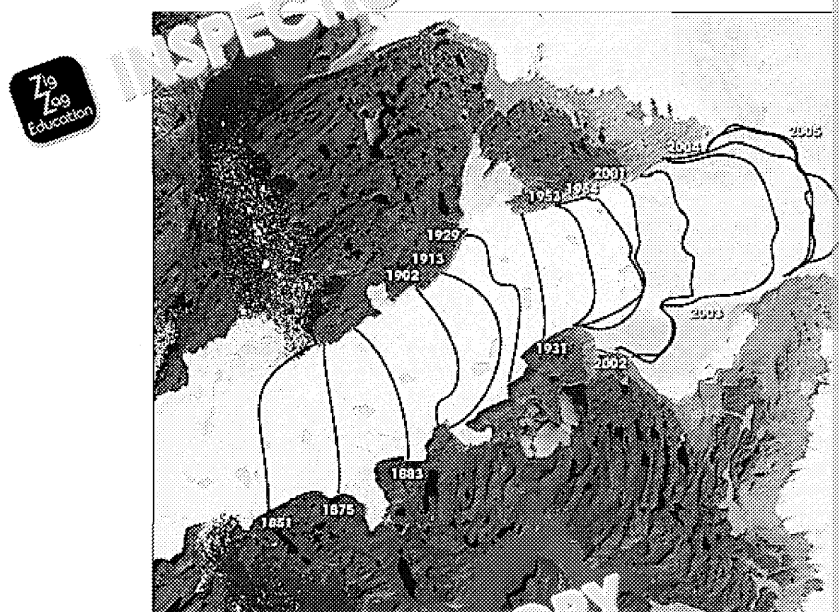


Figure 2 Jakobshavn glacier over time

- a. Suggest what has happened to the glacier budget of this glacier over time.
 - b. Give two possible reasons for this.
5. What is the evidence for past glacial advance and retreat?
 6. Outline the characteristics of a warm-based glacier.
 7.
 - a. Explain the different ways in which ice moves in a glacial system.
 - b. Outline the other geomorphological processes operating in glacial systems.
 8. What is the role of fluvio-glacial processes in glacial systems?
 9.
 - a. Describe the features of permafrost found in periglacial landscapes.
 - b. Explain the periglacial processes of mass movement.

Extension Questions

10. Compare warm-based glaciers with cold-based glaciers.
11. Assess the role of geomorphological processes in glacial systems.

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Test 4 – Development of Glacial Landscapes

1. Give two examples of erosional landforms found in a glaciated landscape.
2. Explain the processes behind the formation of erosional landforms in a glaciated landscape.
3. Describe the characteristics of depositional landforms in glaciated landscapes.
4. Give examples of landscapes that are characterised by the erosional and depositional processes of glaciation.
5. a. What is the definition of a landform?
b. Describe and explain the processes that give rise to this landform.
6. Study the image below.



Figure 3 Periglacial landscape

- a. What periglacial landforms can you see in this picture?
 - b. Explain how these landforms form.
7. Suggest how time and the different processes acting on the landscape make a landscape unique.

Extension Questions

8. Explain how a periglacial landscape forms.
9. Assess the extent to which geomorphological processes create the characteristic features of a glaciated landscape.

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Test 5 – Cold Environments and Hum

1. Define what is meant by the term 'fragile environment'.
2. Suggest why cold environments may be classed as fragile environments.
3. In what ways have human activities impacted on cold environments over time?
4.
 - a. Explain the natural and human causes of climate change.
 - b. Explain how climate change affects cold environments.
 - c. Suggest the future implications of climate change for cold environments.
5.
 - a. Outline how cold environments are currently managed.
 - b. Suggest how cold environments may be managed in the future.

Extension Questions

6. Compare the impacts of human activities on cold environments in the past with the present.
7. Assess the importance of managing in cold environments.

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Test 6 – Synoptic Test

1. Outline how a glacier can be thought of as a system with inputs, stores, flows
2. Describe the global distribution of cold environments
3. Explain how climate affects vegetation that can be found in tundra.
4. Explain how the glacier movement affects the size of the glacier.
5. Describe and explain the features of periglacial landscapes.
6. Outline how human activity has affected cold environments.
7. Explain how a glaciated landscape you have studied offers both challenges and opportunities for humans.

AS Level Question

8. 'Glaciated landscapes are a product of geomorphological processes.'
To what extent do you agree with this statement?

A Level Question

9. Assess the relative importance of climate change in shaping the characteristic landscapes in the future.

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Answers

Test 1 – Glacial Systems

1. 2 marks
A model of a part of the natural world [1] consisting of stores and flows (running)
Also allow marks for description of systems, such as elements and attributes.
2. 3 marks
Elements = parts that combine to make the system [1]
Attributes = the significant characteristics of these elements [1]
Relationships = the connections between elements and attributes, how they interact
3. 4 marks
 - Inputs [1]
 - Outputs [1]
 - Flows [1]
 - Boundaries [1]
4. 6 marks
Isolated system [1]: no inputs or outputs of either material or energy [1]
Closed system [1]: material can't be transferred, but energy can flow in and out [1]
Open system [1]: inputs and outputs of both material and energy [1]
5. 1 mark
When inputs equal outputs [1]
6. 4 marks
Positive feedback cycles:
 - When the equilibrium becomes imbalanced due to an increase in changes [1] further away from equilibrium [1]
 Negative feedback cycles:
 - Occur when a reduction in changes so the system reduces [1] and moves back to equilibrium [1]
7. 2 marks
Suitable examples include (but are not limited to):
 - Sea ice melting (+ve)
 - Permafrost melting (+ve)
 - Deforestation and decreased rainfall (+ve)
 - Exponential growth of a population (+ve)
 - CO₂ generation and absorption by the oceans (-ve)
 - Carbon fertilisation of increased forest growth as a result of climate change
8. 4 marks
A cascading system is a series of open subsystems [1] that connect to each other [1]
The earth can be understood in this way as the atmosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere [1]
connect through energy flows. [1]
9. 1 mark
An open system [1]
10. 3 marks
Examples:
Inputs = meltwater (from snow and from rock falls etc.), solar and geothermal energy [1]
Store = the glacier [1]
Outputs = meltwater, debris, icebergs, water vapour [1]

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11. 4 marks

Positive feedback cycles:

- Positive feedback cycles can occur in glaciated landscapes through the ice albedo effect. [1]
- Ice has a high albedo and so reflects energy back to the sun. [1]
- As an area of ice expands, more solar energy is reflected back towards the sun. [1]
- Temperatures therefore decrease and more ice forms. [1]
- (Opposite of this is also positive feedback cycle)

12. 2 marks

A landscape is all the features of an area. [1]

Landforms are the distinctive features that form a landscape (help us to identify landscape). [1]

13. 4 marks

Example points:

Arêtes, cirques, corries, moraines, hanging valleys, truncated spurs

Extension Questions

14. 4 marks

Example points:

- Positive feedback cycles move systems away from equilibrium. [1]
- In terms of glacial systems, this could mean that changes are amplified making the system move away from equilibrium. [1]
- The ice albedo effect is an example of a positive feedback cycle that can have a significant impact on a system by reducing the mass of the glacier. [1]
- On the other hand, the ice albedo effect can work the other way by increasing the mass of the glacier. This could be seen as a positive effect for cold environments. [1]

15. 6 marks

Example points:

- The systems approach is an important model for understanding how the natural world works. [1]
- Understanding glaciers as systems helps us to understand glaciated landscapes as systems. [1]
- Understanding the inputs, outputs, stores and flows helps to establish the nature of the system. [1]
- It also helps to understand how glaciers change over time and why they might change. [1]
- However, processes such as erosion and deposition are also highly important in understanding the characteristics of glacial landscapes. [1]

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Test 2 – The Distribution and Characteristics of C

1. a. 4 marks
Polar [1]
Alpine [1]
Glacial [1]
Periglacial [1]
- b. 4 marks
Polar:
Polar environments are found around the north and south poles, the highest latitudes.
Alpine:
Alpine environments are found at high altitudes, on mountain ranges such as the New Zealand Alps. [1]
Glacial:
These are situated in polar or mountainous environments, e.g. Greenland or Antarctica.
Periglacial:
Can be found near to glacial regions, high-latitude and dry areas such as Alaska and Scandinavia. [1]
- c. 4 marks
One mark for each environment.
Example points:
Polar:
 - Never reach above 0 °C [1]
 - Snow on the ground all year round [1]**Alpine:**
 - Can be found at any latitude but have to be at a high altitude [1]
 - Cold winters, summer temperatures can be considerably above freezing [1]**Glacial:**
 - Covered in ice sheets all year round [1]**Periglacial:**
 - Not always covered in snow and ice [1]
 - Permafrost always found here [1]
2. 8 marks
Description:
 - Temperatures below freezing all year round (Antarctic generally colder)
 - Low levels of precipitation [1] and strong winds [1]Explanation:
 - The reason for the low temperatures is the lack of intense solar energy reaching the areas. [1]
 - Any areas covered in ice and snow reflect the solar energy back into space.
 - The lack of precipitation is because the environments are in high pressure areas where precipitation is formed. [1]
 - It is also difficult for precipitation to form in cold air. [1]
 - The strong winds are a result of the lack of obstacles in the environment. Significant strong winds as cold air flows down them. [1]
3. a. 4 marks
Low biodiversity due to adverse climate conditions [1]
Mainly grasses, small shrubs, lichens and mosses [1]
No tall trees [1]
 - Any flowering plants are hardy perennials [1]

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b. 4 marks

- The cold environment means there is a slow rate of decay. [1]
- This means there are few nutrients in the soil. [1]
- Not far below ground is a layer of impermeable permafrost. [1]
- Soil becomes waterlogged in summer so leaching is restricted. [1]

c. 6 marks

- Plants grow close to the ground as well as close together to avoid warmer near the surface. [1]
- They have shallow roots to avoid the permafrost. [1]
- Many plants have small leaves to avoid transpiration. [1]
- Some plants may be dormant if there is no light or water then grow themselves. [1]
- They also have a very short growing season to make use of the sun. [1]
- Many of these plants are able to photosynthesise at very low temperatures. [1]
- Any other valid point(s).

4. 2 marks

Glacial periods are times when the global temperature is lower and glaciers are extensive.

Interglacial periods are times when the global temperature is higher and glaciers are limited.

5. 4 marks

Example points:

- The extent of the ice sheets during the last glacial maximum was much greater than today. [1]
- They spread across Canada and into northern USA and across northern Europe. [1]
- Today the only permanent ice sheets are found in Greenland and Antarctica. [1]
- The areas surrounding the ice sheets were steppe-tundra and polar alpine and some more temperate climates. [1]
- Any other valid point(s).

Extension Questions

6. 4 marks

Example points:

- Low temperatures and lack of precipitation make it difficult for vegetation to grow. [1]
- The low temperatures mean that the soil is mainly frozen and, therefore, water is not available. [1]
- The slow decay of plants also means the soil lacks nutrients which, in turn, makes it difficult for plants to grow. [1]
- This means that in these environments only specific vegetation that is well adapted can grow. [1]
- Any other valid point(s).

7. 6 marks

Example points:

- Past distributions help us understand the extent of cold environments in the past. [1]
- This can then help us to understand past climates which can help predict how the future may be. [1]
- It also highlights the impact of anthropogenic climate change. [1]
- In terms of landscape, it helps us to understand how each glaciated landscape has been shaped. [1]
- For example, it helps to indicate what the landscape was like before it was glaciated. [1]
- It also helps to explain why the non-glaciated landscapes that exist today may be different. [1]
- Any other valid point(s).

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Test 3 – Glacial Processes and Systems

1. 2 marks
This is where the outputs of the glacier (melt water, water vapour, icebergs, etc.) [1]
2. 1 mark
The glacier budget is the difference between the inputs and the outputs. [1]
3. 4 marks
During the warmer summer months, there is more ablation than accumulation [1] as ablation happens at a faster rate [1].
In the colder months, there is more accumulation than ablation [1] and the glacier grows [1].
4. a. 2 marks
The glacier has retreated [1]; therefore, there must have been a continued period of ablation [1] greater than the rate of accumulation. [1]
b. 2 marks
 - Climate change [1]
 - Localised reasons, e.g. less snowfall [1]
5. 1 mark
Glacial erosional and depositional landforms are evident in the landscapes. [1]
6. 4 marks
 - Found in temperate conditions, with cold winters but warm summers [1]
 - This creates plenty of meltwater in the spring and summer [1]
 - In turn, this creates a lubricant base that allows the glacier to move easily [1]
 - Therefore, erosion, transportation and deposition take place [1]
7. a. 6 marks
Example points:
 - Glacial ice moves due to the force of gravity [1]
 - The build-up of pressure pulls the ice down the valley making the glacier move [1]
 - Rotational flow is how ice can move at the source of the glacier (corrie) [1]
 - Depending on the gradient of the valley, compressional and extensional flow occurs [1]
 - Compressional flow occurs when the gradient of the valley is shallower [1]
 - Extensional flow occurs when the valley has a steeper gradient. [1]
 - Basal sliding occurs as the ice on the bedrock melts due to pressure, lubrication and allowing it to move. [1]
- b. 8 marks
Example points:
 - Weathering occurs through frost action [1], which shatters the rock due to the ice expanding and contracting as it thaws [1]
 - Erosional processes occur through abrasion and plucking. [1]
 - Abrasion is where the material carried by the glacier rubs along the bedrock [1]
 - Plucking occurs as the ice moves down the mountain and pulls away rock [1]
 - The glacier can then carry this material through transportation [1], either within the glacier or at the base of the glacier. [1]
 - The glacier then deposits this material as till at its snout or in areas where it melts [1]
8. 2 marks
The erosion, transportation and deposition of material in the meltwater streams [1]
This can occur in the melted water on the surface, within or underneath the glacier [1]
9. a. 4 marks
Example points:
 - Permanently frozen ground [1]
 - Temperatures below the ground must be below freezing [1]
 - The frozen water in the ground sticks the minerals and nutrients together [1]
 - In the summer the very top layer of soil becomes the active layer as it thaws [1]
 - Unfrozen ground that remains unfrozen all year round is known as talus [1]

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b. 4 marks

- Mass movement in periglacial landscapes occurs during the summer months.
- Solifluction occurs because the meltwater cannot go into the frozen ground so it moves the top layer of soil down a gradient. [1]
- Frost creep is the slow movement of the soil and sediment downhill as a result of the thaw cycles of the frost. [1]
- Large rockfalls can also occur due to the weathering process of freeze-thaw. [1]

Extension Questions

10. 6 marks

Example points:

- Warm-based glaciers are found in more temperate climates where the sun melts the ice at the base, causing it to slide. [1]
- This means that there is plenty of meltwater [1] that causes the ice to be more plastic and move faster. [1]
- This faster rate of movement in the warm-based glaciers leads to more erosion and deposition of material. [1]
- Cold-based glaciers occur in very cold climates [1] where there is little snow and the ice is frozen to the bedrock.
- This means that there is little meltwater and the ice is frozen to the bedrock so it moves very slowly.
- Cold-based glaciers therefore move very slowly over time usually through ice deformation. [1]
- Any other valid point(s).

11. 6 marks

Example points:

- Geomorphological processes play a variety of roles in glacial systems. [1]
- They help to form the landforms and, therefore, the landscape of glaciation.
- The process of weathering provides material that can be transported by erosion and plucking. [1]
- This material is then transported by the glacier and deposited at the snout of the glacier.
- Different rates of these processes occur depending on the type of glacier (warm-based vs cold-based) and the location and topography of the landscape. [1]
- The geomorphological processes play a role in helping scientists understand the history of the landscape.
- The study of landforms and evidence of geomorphological change. [1]

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Test 4 – Development of Glacial Landscapes

1. 2 marks

Any two erosional landforms:

- Corries
- Arêtes
- Hanging valleys
- Any other valid landform(s)

2. 8 marks

Example points:

- Corries originate through the process of nivation which erodes the ground into a bowl shape.
- The snowfield is then enlarged by the weight of the ice on top of it. [1]
- Plucking erodes the backwall and abrasion erodes the floor, both of which create a steep-sided corrie.
- Two corries back to back create a steep ridge between them known as an arête.
- As the glacier flows down the valley, the weight and pressure of the ice carve a U-shaped valley or glacial trough. [1]
- As the glacier erodes the valley it erodes the old interlocking spurs to form a flat valley floor.
- Hanging valleys are also created. [1]
- Roches moutonnées are protruding sections of rock on the valley floor that have been smoothed by the glacier.
- The rock gets smoothed down by erosion on the upstream side but made jagged on the downstream side through plucking and abrasion. [1]

3. 6 marks

Example points:

- Drumlins are egg-shaped domes [1]. The upstream end is steep and rough while the downstream end is streamlined and smooth. [1]
- Erratics are large rocks and boulders that are of a completely different origin to the surrounding area.
- Moraines are the build-up of rock debris that has been deposited by the glacier. e.g. ground, terminal, lateral, etc. [1]
- Till plains are broad areas of flat land that contain till deposits of silt, sand and gravel.

4. 2 marks

Students must answer with any area they have studied.

Examples:

Erosional: Buttermere Valley, Lake District. Lauterbrunnen, Switzerland.

Depositional: Glacial till plains in Ohio, USA. Vale of Eden, Cumbria.

5. a. 2 marks

A depositional [1], fluvioglacial landform [1]

b. 6 marks

- Eskers are lengthy, winding ridges of glacial sediment [1] that run in the direction of ice flow.
- Usually, they are several kilometres long and can reach heights of 20 metres above the surrounding land.
- Eskers are made from the gravel, silt and other sediments from a subglacial stream.
- Subglacial streams flow through the glacier and are able to carry a large load of sediment because of the low hydrostatic pressure. [1]
- This load builds the bed of the river from which the esker ridge is created. [1]

6. a. 2 marks

- Ice working below the glacier
- Long ridges of sediment

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b. 8 marks

Ice wedge polygons:

- During the winter the soil contracts and forms cracks. [1]
- In the springtime these cracks widen and fill with meltwater which contracts the cracks further. [1]
- Each year this freeze-thaw process continues, widening the cracks year after year upwards and forms ridges. [1]
- This creates a polygon pattern on the ground. [1]

Pingos:

- Can form as closed-system or open-system. [1]
- Start formation when water underneath a lake bed or where there is thin permafrost frozen. [1]
- Water gets trapped in the unfrozen ground and then freezes. [1]
- This causes it to expand. This expansion and the hydrostatic pressure creates a shape on the land. [1]

7. 4 marks

Example points:

- Over time the climate has changed and, therefore, the extent of cold environments has changed. [1]
- This has meant that each glaciated landscape has a different past environment. [1]
- Depending on the location of the glaciated landscape, different processes will be shaping the landscape. [1]
- For example, cold-based glaciers experience much less erosion and deposition. [1]

Extension Questions

8. 4 marks

Example points:

- Periglacial landforms of mass movement [1]
- Formed through frost-action weathering, where the water in the rock cycles between solid and liquid states [1]
- This causes the top of the rock to crack [1]
- As a result of this, jagged boulders are formed across an area [1]

9. 6 marks

Example points:

- They play a significant role in characterising glaciated landscapes through erosion, transport and deposition. [1]
- These processes are what form the landforms that are unique to glaciated landscapes. [1]
- For example, corries and hanging valleys are formed by ice movement and erosion. [1]
- However, not all glaciated landscapes experience these processes to the same extent. [1]
- Some glacial landscapes contain considerably fewer erosional and depositional landforms. [1]
- Despite this, cold-based landscapes still contain characteristic features. [1]
- Must also consider the other processes at play such as fluvio-glacial and periglacial. [1]

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Test 5 – Cold Environments and Human

1. 2 marks
Landscapes or areas that are sensitive to the impacts of human activity [1] and
2. 4 marks
 - Plant growth is slow in cold environments and, therefore, they would take a long time to recover from damage. [1]
 - There is also only a short growing season, which also increases the length of time it takes for the environment to recover. [1]
 - The harsh environments and climate mean that plants are very specialised and can only survive in certain conditions. [1]
 - The low level of biodiversity in the tundra also means that the amount of energy stored in the system is low and fluctuates and is, therefore, fragile. [1]
3. 8 marks
Example points:
 - Less impact on the environment in the past as the only human activities were hunting and gathering. [1]
 - Often the impact of these communities, such as fishing and whaling, was on a local scale. [1]
 - As industrialisation and globalisation have developed, human activities have become more exploitative. [1]
 - For example, fishing and whaling have both become more industrialised and have had a greater impact. [1]
 - This has led to overfishing which, in turn, threatens the biodiversity of cold environments. [1]
 - As countries have developed and other resources have depleted, cold environments have become more important for mining for oil, gas and gold. [1]
 - The large scale of these industrial mines has caused damage to the cold environments. [1]
 - Tourism is another human impact that has increased in recent years. Some people argue that it helps to protect the cold environments whereas other types of development can be more harmful. [1]
4. a. 6 marks
Natural causes:
 - Changes in solar activity, e.g. more sun spots [1]
 - The Milankovitch cycles – the way the orbit and tilt of the earth change over time [1]
 - Changes in ocean circulation changes [1]
 - Volcanic eruptions [1]Human causes:
 - Burning of fossil fuels [1]
 - Agriculture and industry [1]
 - Deforestation and loss of carbon stores [1]
- b. 4 marks
Example points:
 - Ice melting – sea ice, glaciers and ice sheets [1]
 - This, in turn, makes sea levels rise, which encroaches on cold environments. [1]
 - Warmer climate leads to different plant species growth [1]
 - Length of summer can increase, changing the growing season for plants. [1]
 - Any other valid point(s) [1]
- c. 4 marks
Example points:
 - If the ice continues to melt, there could be a significant reduction in the amount of ice. [1]
 - Permafrost melting, causing problems not only for the ecosystem but also for communities living on them. [1]
 - This could then lead to further sea level rises, which could have global impacts. [1]
 - Temperatures of the cold environments could continue to increase which would lead to changes in season length and, therefore, the flora and fauna. [1]
 - There could be a loss of habitats and, therefore, species. [1]
 - Any other valid point(s). [1]

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5. a. 4 marks
Example points:
- Measures have been taken to manage cold environments; these have been taken at a local and a global scale. [1]
 - Antarctica, for example, is part of the global commons and the land belongs to no one. [1]
 - It is also part of a treaty that protects the land for peace and scientific research. [1]
 - Small-scale management of these cold environments is also taking place through ecotourism. [1]
 - Any other valid point(s).
- b. 8 marks
Example points:
- There is an argument over whether cold environments should be managed for their resources or for their scientific value. [1]
 - If their resources deplete in the future, there is an argument for exploiting them for oil and gas. [1]
 - This would help to allow countries to continue to industrialise and use their resources. [1]
 - However, others argue that they need to be managed sustainably and protected for future generations. [1]
 - Cold environments being such fragile and rare locations means their exploitation could harm the planet's health. [1]
 - The threat of climate change and its future impacts presents another argument for managing cold environments. [1]
 - There is also an argument for utilising these environments for more scientific research. [1]
 - It could be the case that they may hold key ingredients for medicines or other valuable resources. [1]
 - Any other valid point(s).

Extension Questions

6. 6 marks
Example points:
- The impacts of human activity on cold environments were minimal in the past. [1]
 - It was mainly only indigenous populations who could utilise the resources through hunting, fishing and whaling. [1]
 - Today the level of impact has increased significantly, both directly and indirectly. [1]
 - This has happened as a result of an increase in commercial fishing and the exploitation of oil and gas, and climate change, which has indirectly impacted on cold environments through the melting of ice sheets and ice caps, and the longer summer. [1]. Both of these have, in turn, impacted on the environment. [1]
 - On the other hand, vast regions of cold environments remain untouched [1] and human activities will impact on them in the future. [1]
7. 6 marks
Example points:
- Management is key to helping protect and regulate the use of cold environments. [1]
 - The Antarctic Treaty has been key in protecting the continent from development and instead helping research. [1]
 - Management through more small-scale operations such as ecotourism highlights the importance of these areas as places to protect. [1]
 - On the other hand, this form of management may not always be effective. [1]
 - Increasing pressure for the development of Antarctica has undermined the effectiveness of management. [1]
 - The management of these areas may need to be reconsidered in the future. [1]
 - Whether cold environments should be utilised for their resources or protected as ecological sites. [1]

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Test 6 – Synoptic Test

1. 4 marks

- A glacier has inputs of snowfall and avalanches as well as solar energy. [1]
- The store is the ice in the glacier. [1]
- The flow is through ice movement, such as internal deformation and basal sliding. [1]
- The outputs are in meltwater, debris, icebergs and water vapour. [1]

2. 4 marks

- Polar environments are found at the north and south poles, the highest latitudes. [1]
- Alpine environments are found at high altitudes, on mountain ranges such as the Alps and the New Zealand Alps. [1]
- Glacial environments are situated in polar or mountainous environments, e.g. Antarctica. [1]
- Periglacial environments can be found near glacial regions, high-latitude areas like Canada and parts of Scandinavia. [1]

3. 4 marks

Example points:

- Low temperatures and lack of precipitation make it difficult for vegetation to grow. [1]
- The cold temperatures mean that the soil is mainly frozen and, therefore, water cannot penetrate. [1]
- The slow decay of plants also means the soil lacks nutrients, which, in turn, makes it difficult for plants to grow. [1]
- This means that in these environments only specific vegetation that is well adapted can grow. [1]
- Any other valid point(s).

4. 4 marks

- The glacier budget is the difference between accumulation and ablation. [1]
- If the glacier budget is negative it means that it is retreating [1] as ablation exceeds accumulation. [1]
- If the glacier budget is positive then the glacier is advancing, [1] and accumulation exceeds ablation. [1]

5. 8 marks

Example points:

- Periglacial landscapes are characterised by areas of permafrost. [1]
- The low temperatures throughout the year generate excess meltwater which can create interesting features and processes of mass movement. [1]
- Features such as patterned ground, ice wedges and pingos [1] are formed over years which changes the shape of the land. [1]
- Mass movement such as solifluction occurs because the meltwater cannot drain away from the ground and, therefore, moves the top layer of soil down a gradient. [1]
- Frost creep is the slow movement of the soil and sediment downhill and occurs in cycles of the frost [1]. This also helps to create terracettes. [1]
- Large rockfalls can also occur due to the weathering process of freeze-thaw. [1]

6. 8 marks

Example points:

- There was less impact on the environment in the past as the only human activity was from indigenous populations [1]
- Often the impact of these communities, such as on fishing and whaling, was sustainable. [1]
- As industrialisation and globalisation have developed, human activities have become more exploitative. [1]
- For example, fishing and whaling have both become more industrialised and have led to overfishing which, in turn, threatens the biodiversity of cold environments. [1]
- As countries have developed and other resources have depleted, cold environments have been exploited for oil, gas and gold. The large scale of these industrial mines has had a significant impact on the environment. [1]
- Anthropogenic climate change has also affected cold environments by increasing temperatures which has adverse effects on the ice and sea level. [1]
- Tourism is another human impact that has increased in recent years. Some types of tourism can protect the cold environments whereas other types can be more harmful. [1]

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7. 8 marks

Answer will depend on the case study chosen. Students must draw on both the chosen environment.

Answers may include ideas around the following points:

- Environment is challenging to live in due to the climate, the lack of certainty (e.g. food not always available) and its fragility.
- Many communities have adapted to be able to live in these hostile environments using animal skins to make clothes, ice for igloos, etc.
- The landscapes often hold many opportunities for development such as mining, however, this can cause damage to the environment.
- Conflict between different groups of people who want to use the landscapes for different businesses.

AS Level Question

8. 20 marks

Students must show a good understanding of what is meant by the term glaciated landscapes. They must also understand the processes that shape these landscapes, including weathering, erosion and deposition. Students must demonstrate a balanced view for and against the statement. Students must make a judgement of their own opinion on the statement.

Answers may relate to, but are not restricted to, the following points:

- Glaciated landscapes as:
 - Distinctive landscapes with all the features of glaciation
 - Cold environment
- Geomorphological processes play an important role in forming glaciated landscapes
 - Weathering, frost action and nivation
 - Erosion forms certain landforms such as corries, arêtes and hanging valleys
 - Deposition also forms other landforms such as kettles, kames, erratics and moraines
 - The movement of the ice also carves out the land through internal deformation, extensional flow, and basal sliding
- Other processes and factors that shape glaciated landscapes
 - Fluvio-glacial processes such as meltwater erosion, transportation and deposition
 - Climate also plays a key role
 - Time affects where glaciated landscapes are able to form and past climates have changed many times over millions of years
 - Climate also can have an impact on geomorphological processes themselves
 - For example, warm-based glaciers that are found in more temperate climates can erode and transport and deposit material than cold-based glaciers

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A Level Question

9. 20 marks

Students must show a good understanding of both human and natural causes of climate change. Students must demonstrate a balanced view for and against the importance of climate change on glaciated landscapes.

Students must make a judgement of how important climate change will be in shaping the future of glaciated landscapes.

Answers may relate to, but are not restricted to, the following points:

- Causes of climate change:
 - The global climate always naturally changes over the course of time.
 - This can relate to natural factors, Milankovitch cycles, volcanoes and oceanic circulation.
 - Recently, anthropogenic climate change has become more prominent due to human activities such as agriculture and industry and through deforestation and land use changes. Some of these things have had an impact on the distribution and the shape of glaciated landscapes.
- Effects of climate change on shaping glaciated landscapes:
 - Climate has always been changing and this has always had an impact on the shape of glaciated landscapes.
 - This means that the characteristics of glaciated landscapes have been shaped by past climate change. The landscapes have changed from fluvial to glacial and back to fluvial.
 - The current impact of climate change has been accelerated by human activities.
 - Temperature is rising, ice is melting and sea levels are rising at a much faster rate than in the past.
 - This is consequently changing the shape and characteristics of glaciated landscapes.
 - However, glaciated landscapes are dynamic landscapes and are, therefore, constantly changing despite climate change.
 - Processes such as weathering, erosion and deposition are constantly shaping the landscapes.
- Future effects of climate change:
 - If climate change continues at the rate that it currently is then it may have a significant impact on the characteristics of glaciated landscapes.
 - As the ice melts, a positive feedback loop may begin that will drastically change the landscape from equilibrium, so it will lose its ice mass and, therefore, its ecosystem will be affected.
 - This could drastically change the landforms and biodiversity that you would expect to find in a glaciated landscape.



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