

## Ecosystems / management featured in GCSE Geography Specifications Overview

Specification	Section	Specific details
AQA 'A'	Unit 1: Physical Geography Living World An ecosystem is made up of plants and animals and the physical factors affecting them (climate and soil). These different parts interrelate and depend on each other. There is a balance between the different parts.	The concept of an ecosystem. The use of a small scale ecosystem to illustrate the parts of an ecosystem and how it works, including consumers, decomposers, food chain/web, nutrient cycling and producers. The balance between the components. The impact of changing one component on the others.  Also mentions the potential impacts of deforestation in area.
AQA 'B'	Unit 2: Hostile World	Brief mention of ecosystems, but in the context of Tropical Rainforests
Edexcel 'A'	No specific mention of ecosystems. Unit 3 Changes in the UK Countryside How the pressures and conflicts in a UK National Park are being managed. The pressure of increasing visitor numbers	The pressure of increasing visitor numbers leads to conflicts between different groups of people within the park. How are these pressures and conflicts being managed in one UK National Park.
Edexcel 'B'	Topic 2: Climate and Change Natural climate change in the past has affected people and ecosystems	Examining the impact of a short-term, historical event such as the Little Ice Age on people and farming
	Topic 3: Battle for the Biosphere The biosphere is being degraded by human actions.	Using an example, e.g. Amazonia, to consider the role of human activity in direct destruction of the biosphere, e.g. deforestation, mining, conversion to farmland or over fishing. Degradation of the biosphere by indirect means, e.g. climate change induced stress.
	Topic 4: Water World Changes to the hydrological cycle	Considering the impact of climate change on the hydrological cycle and ecosystems, in areas which may experience increased aridity.

	Cultural Geography Development	Sustainable management of ecosystems, both locally and globally, to protect them from further degradation.
OCR 'A'	<b>No relevant content</b>	
OCR 'B'	Ecosystems are one possible theme for a Geographical Investigation	
WJEC 'A'	Theme 9: Living Things What are biomes and how do they differ? How does the physical environment interact with living things to produce different large scale ecosystems?	Identify the links between living and non-living parts of an ecosystem. Appreciate that ecosystems exist at different scales.
	How are ecosystems managed? In what ways do people use ecosystems?	Identification and analysis of human impact on one located ecosystem to demonstrate the various ways in which it is being used such as: logging, agriculture, fishing.
	How can ecosystems be managed sustainably?	Evaluate strategies such as ecotourism, selected logging, national parks, cycle ways and fishing quotas
WJEC 'B'	Key Idea 7: Economic activity and ecosystems How can economic activity lead to changes in the structure, processes and stability of ecosystems?	Investigations of the structure, function and influence of people / organisations on contrasting ecosystems at different scales.  Use an ecosystem local to the school, offering the possibility of fieldwork, or choose from a variety of scales and locations. <i>After an introduction to the effects of human activity on the chosen ecosystem use a debate to explore the views of different groups of people in relation to the issue and its sustainable exploitation. Presentation of results by an individual activity using, for example, a newspaper front page, Photo Story or two leaflets and an accompanying commentary.</i>
	What conflicts arise from these changes both within and beyond	A consideration of how conflicts arise from tensions between the desire to

	the ecosystem?	create wealth and job opportunities and the need to protect ecosystems.
	How might ecosystems be better managed in a sustainable way?	How ecosystems can be managed to reduce conflict and ensure a sustainable future

WJEC 'B' would seem to be the best opportunity for a specification to match with what Rose has been doing, and with the changing nature of the ecosystems on Bleaklow.

It is also worth noting that National Parks and the way that they are managed feature in many specifications. One of the tensions in the work that Rose has been doing is the way that the area is still open for people to visit, when it would perhaps be best for it to be closed off in order to allow it to regenerate.

There are also links with water management and supply.