

Year 7 Humanities

Term 3 Final Revision Guide

Geography | History

Section A: Geography

Topic 1: Resources and Renewable Energy

Renewable energy comes from sources that will not run out or are easily replaced. Unlike fossil fuels, these sources are sustainable for the long term.

Types of Renewable Energy

Energy Type	Source	How It Works
Solar	The sun	Sunlight is captured by panels and converted into electricity
Wind	Moving air	Wind turbines spin to generate electricity
Hydroelectric	Flowing water	Moving water drives turbines to produce power
Geothermal	The Earth's heat	Heat from underground is used to generate energy
Biomass	Plants and organic waste	Burning organic material releases energy

Advantages and Disadvantages

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustainable: will not run out over time• Cleaner: produces far less pollution than fossil fuels• Low maintenance cost once installed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unreliable: solar and wind depend on weather conditions• High setup cost: expensive to install the technology

Topic 2: Climate Change

Climate change refers to long-term changes in temperature, weather patterns, and the Earth's climate. Human activities, especially burning fossil fuels, increase carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere, which traps heat and causes global warming.

Causes of Climate Change

- Burning fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas): releases CO₂ into the atmosphere
- Deforestation: fewer trees means less CO₂ is absorbed from the air
- Agriculture: animals and rice paddies release methane gas

Effects of Climate Change

- Rising sea levels due to melting glaciers and ice sheets
- Extreme weather events including more storms, heatwaves, and floods
- Habitat loss as temperatures rise and low-lying areas flood
- Dehydration and food shortages as land becomes too dry to farm
- Wildfires destroying homes and ecosystems
- Coral bleaching caused by warmer ocean temperatures

Cause and Effect Summary

Cause	Effect
Melting glaciers	Loss of animal habitats
Deforestation	More carbon dioxide in the atmosphere
Warmer oceans	Coral bleaching

Topic 3: Mapwork

Map Symbols

Symbol	What It Represents
Blue lines	Rivers
Brown lines	Contours (lines showing height of the land)
Yellow lines	Roads

Compass Directions

From the Town on the map:

- Footpath is located to the South East
- Bridge is located to the South East

4-Figure Grid References

To read a grid reference: go along the corridor first, then up the stairs. Read the Eastings (numbers along the bottom) before the Northings (numbers up the side).

Feature	Grid Reference
River	3433
Bridge	3532
Town	3333

Topic 4: Rivers and Floods

The River System

You need to be able to draw and label the main parts of a river system. Key features include:

- Source: where the river begins (usually in hills or mountains)
- Tributary: a smaller stream that flows into the main river
- Confluence: the point where two rivers or streams meet
- Meander: a bend or curve in the river
- Flood plain: flat land on either side of the river that floods
- Mouth: where the river meets the sea

What Is a Flood?

A flood occurs when water overflows onto land that is normally dry.

Causes of Floods

- Heavy or prolonged rainfall
- Rapid snowmelt filling rivers quickly
- Tsunamis in coastal areas

Case Study: Floods in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is one of the countries most affected by flooding in the world. Key causes include its low-lying geography, the monsoon season, and rivers carrying meltwater from the Himalayas.

Section B: History

Topic 5: The Norman Conquest 1066

The Three Contenders for the Throne

Contender	Who They Were	Their Claim
Harold Godwinson	Earl of Wessex, the most powerful English nobleman	Edward the Confessor supposedly promised him the throne on his deathbed
William of Normandy	Duke of Normandy (in France)	Harold had previously sworn an oath to support his claim
Harald Hardrada	King of Norway	Believed he had a Viking right to the English throne

Key Events of 1066

Date	Event
Early 1066	Edward the Confessor dies with no heir, leaving three men to fight for the crown
September 1066	Harald Hardrada and Harold's brother Tostig invade with 10,000 Vikings
Battle of Stamford Bridge	Harold Godwinson defeats and kills Hardrada. England is saved in the north
14 October 1066	Battle of Hastings: Harold rushes south. William uses a fake retreat to break the English shield wall. Harold is killed
Christmas 1066	William of Normandy is crowned King of England. The Norman Conquest begins

Key battle tactic to remember: At Hastings, Harold's men formed a shield wall on the hill. William could not break through, so he faked a retreat. When English soldiers ran down the hill to chase him, his troops turned and cut them down.

Topic 6: The Peasants' Revolt 1381

Background and Causes

- The feudal system was already weakening after the Black Death killed much of the peasant workforce
- Labour shortages meant peasants had more power than before
- In 1377 a poll tax was introduced to pay for an ongoing war with France
- By 1381 peasants were furious at the unfair burden placed on the poor

What Happened

- Peasants from Kent and Essex marched on London, led by Wat Tyler
- Rebels attacked the Tower of London and destroyed tax records
- The 14-year-old King Richard II met with them and made promises
- Wat Tyler was killed during a meeting with the king's men
- Richard II later broke all his promises and the revolt collapsed

What the Peasants Demanded

Demands	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An end to serfdom (being tied to the land)• Lower and fairer taxes• Fairer laws for ordinary people	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The revolt ultimately failed• Serfdom did slowly die out over the following decades• It showed that peasants could challenge authority

Topic 7: Crime and Punishment in Medieval England

How Was Law and Order Kept?

There was no police force in medieval England. Communities were responsible for catching criminals and enforcing the law.

- Tithings: groups of ten men who had to report each other if one broke the law
- Hue and cry: if someone witnessed a crime, everyone in the area had to help chase the criminal
- Local officials such as constables and reeves ran manor courts to deal with minor crimes

Types of Trial

Trial by Ordeal	Manor Courts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A test used to determine guilt• Example: holding a piece of hot iron• If wounds healed cleanly it was seen as a sign from God that the person was innocent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local courts that dealt with minor crimes• Run by lords and local officials• Fines were a common punishment• More serious crimes went to higher courts

- Based on religious belief rather than evidence

Why Were Punishments So Harsh?

- To act as a deterrent and scare others from committing crimes
- There were very few jails so punishments needed to happen immediately
- Public punishments demonstrated who held power and authority

Crimes and Punishments

Crime	Punishment
Theft	Hanging or flogging
Treason (betraying the king)	Hung, drawn, and quartered
Gossip or lying	Stocks or pillory (public humiliation)
Not attending court	Fines or community punishment

Topic 8: The Black Death

The Black Death was a bubonic plague that arrived at Melcombe Regis in Dorset in June 1348. It was spread by fleas carried on rats. Between one third and one half of England's population died, approximately 2 to 3 million people out of a population of around 6 million.

Causes and Spread

- Caused by a bacterial infection known as bubonic plague
- Rats carried infected fleas which bit humans and passed on the disease
- Spread rapidly through towns due to overcrowding and poor sanitation
- People had no understanding of germs or how disease spread

Impacts of the Black Death

Impact	Explanation
Labour shortage	So many peasants died that there were not enough workers left to farm the land
Rising wages	Landowners competed for workers and had to pay much higher wages
Legal backlash	In 1351 a law was passed forcing wages back to pre-plague levels

Peasants' Revolt

The anger over wages and unfair treatment became one of the main causes of the 1381 revolt

Topic 9: Life in Medieval England

Village Life

Life in a medieval village was extremely hard for ordinary people.

- Peasants known as villeins worked in the fields from sunrise to sundown
- Land was owned by the Lord of the Manor
- Villeins were allowed to live on the land in return for money, labour, and obedience
- Most lived in small wooden huts and kept sheep, goats, and chickens
- Growing enough food to survive was a constant challenge

Town Life

- Towns grew as trade and different businesses developed
- Many different trades operated in a single town
- Workers in the same profession formed groups called guilds
- Examples include the Blacksmiths' Guild and the Carpenters' Guild
- Guilds set standards for work quality and protected their members

Topic 10: Weapons and Tactics in Medieval Warfare

Weapon or Tactic	Description
Longbow	Extremely powerful and accurate. Could pierce armour from a long distance and gave archers a major advantage
Swords	Standard weapon for soldiers in close combat
Crossbow	A mechanical bow that was slower to reload but powerful and easy to use
Early cannons	Used in the later medieval period to break down the walls of castles
Siege warfare	Surrounding a castle and cutting off all food and supplies until the defenders had no choice but to surrender

Key Vocabulary to Know

Term	Definition
Renewable energy	Energy from a source that will not run out, such as sunlight or wind
Fossil fuels	Fuels such as coal, oil, and gas formed from ancient living things
Climate change	Long-term shifts in global temperatures and weather patterns
Deforestation	The large-scale cutting down of forests
Contour lines	Lines on a map connecting points of equal height above sea level
Grid reference	A set of numbers used to identify an exact location on a map
Feudal system	A medieval system where land was exchanged for loyalty and service
Villein	A peasant who was tied to the land and had to serve their lord
Serfdom	The state of being bound to work on a lord's land with few rights
Poll tax	A fixed tax charged equally to every adult person
Bubonic plague	A deadly disease spread by fleas on rats, known as the Black Death
Trial by ordeal	A medieval method of determining guilt through a physical test
Tithings	Groups of ten men who were each responsible for the others' behaviour
Hue and cry	The obligation for all people to join in chasing a known criminal
Guild	An organisation of craftsmen or merchants in the same trade
Siege warfare	Surrounding a castle to cut off supplies until it surrenders

Revision Checklist

Geography

- I can name five types of renewable energy and explain how they work
- I can give two advantages and two disadvantages of renewable energy
- I can explain what climate change is and name at least three causes and three effects
- I can read map symbols for rivers, contours, and roads
- I can write a 4-figure grid reference correctly
- I can label the main parts of a river system
- I can explain what a flood is and name three causes

History

- I can name the three contenders for the English throne in 1066 and explain their claims
- I can describe the key events of the Battle of Hastings including William's fake retreat tactic
- I can explain three causes of the Peasants' Revolt

- I can name Wat Tyler and explain what happened to him
- I can describe how crime and punishment worked in medieval England
- I can explain what the Black Death was and describe its impact on English society
- I can describe what life was like for a villein in a medieval village
- I can name and describe four medieval weapons or tactics

Good luck with your revision!