How we’ve got homework right..

Jen Monk
Head of Geography,
Golborne High School

@ennnnnnn_x
Cathy Vatterott (2010) identified five fundamental characteristics of good homework: purpose, efficiency, ownership, competence, and aesthetic appeal.

1. **Purpose**: all homework assignments are meaningful & students must also understand the purpose of the assignment and why it is important in the context of their academic experience (Xu, 2011).

2. **Efficiency**: homework should not take an inordinate amount of time and should require some hard thinking.

3. **Ownership**: students who feel connected to the content and assignment learn more and are more motivated. Providing students with choice in their assignments is one way to create ownership.

4. **Competence**: students should feel competent in completing homework. In order to achieve this, it’s beneficial to abandon the one-size-fits-all model. Homework that students can’t do without help is not good homework.

5. **Inspiring**: A well-considered & clearly designed resource and task impacts positively upon student motivation.
Homework at KS3

Homework Menu

Feeling Adventurous

1. France has a pro-natal policy, find out what this means. What are the benefits of following the policy? Find out if it is working. How do other countries manage population?

2. Kerala in India is a place where they have managed population growth – can you write a report about what they have done in order to lower the birth rate. Has it been successful?

Upping the challenge

3. ‘The One Child Policy had more strengths than weaknesses’ – to what extent do you agree with this statement. You need to summarise the OCP in the introduction, both strengths and weaknesses in the main section and an opinion in the conclusion.

4. The UK has an ageing population. Find out what this means and write a newspaper article about the effects an ageing population is having on the UK. What are the government trying to do to change this?

Starting straightforward

5. Find out key statistics (e.g. birth & death rate, population density, infant mortality rate) for 5 different countries – summarise what you have found out in a table. Explain what it tells you about each country.

6. Find a population density map for two different countries of your choice (ask your teacher if you are stuck) and describe the pattern shown in both. Can you explain any reasons for this pattern?

Homework Support:

Task 1: This is a research-based homework. You should aim to structure the findings of your research as follows: What does a pro-natal policy mean? Why has France adopted a pro-natal policy? How might this benefit France in the future? Has the policy been successful? Investigate other population policies in countries such as China, India, Canada and Australia – or even the UK.

Task 2: In order to complete this homework successfully you will need to research Kerala. Even use Google Earth to get a feel of Kerala and see what it is like. In your report about Kerala you need to explain why population growth has had a negative impact on Kerala. How has the population been managed in Kerala – why is the birth rate falling? How will this help Kerala to develop?

Task 3: As you research China’s One Child Policy make notes on the following: when was the policy introduced and why was it introduced? How was the policy enforced throughout China? How will the population affect China’s population structure (look for population pyramids for China’s population from 30-40 years ago, the present day and a projected future population pyramid). Then answer the GCSE style question using the following structure

1. Briefly introduce the policy and say why it was adopted in China
2. Strengths/advantages of the policy (think social, economic and environmental)
3. Weakness/disadvantages of the policy – what negative impacts might it lead to for China’s future
4. A direct link back to the statement – do you agree or disagree?

Task 4: What is an ageing population? Countries such as Germany and the United Kingdom have one. As recently as last week, an ageing population makes news headlines in the UK – consider why this would be. Create a newspaper report (you can print off or design your own newspaper) with an appropriate headline to suggest why an ageing population is sending the government into a panic. Consider the future too – what could an ageing population lead to?

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Homework at KS3

• Homework menus...
• Geography in the news...

Geography in the News 25 (2019/20)

Wider reading in Geography

Geography in the News this week explores how more than 3bn people could live in heat by 2070.

TinyURL: https://tinyurl.com/CC3bnHeat

Define It

To begin with, it will be very useful to know what the following terms mean. Write definition for each:

- Climate change
- Paris Climate Agreement
- Climate niche

The Facts

Complete the questions below or head over to https://www.internetgeography.net/itn25/ to complete the questions as a multiple-choice quiz.

1. How many people will be living in now un-liveable temperatures by 2070?
2. Unless greenhouse emissions fall, large numbers of people will experience temperatures hotter than how many degrees Celsius?

Geography in the news...

Title: Food insecurity in Lesotho.

Read this article about the drought in the African country of Lesotho:
https://www.bbc.co.uk/science/reading/2019/08/20190820-un-reported-deaths-drought

Key: https://tinyurl.com/CC3bnHeat

Key Terms: It will be very useful to know what the following terms mean. Write a definition for each:

- drought
- famine
- migration
- Inter-governmental organisation (IGO)
- International Monetary Fund

Key Questions:
1. Why is Tsipho Molapo concerned for his grandmother?
2. How many people in Lesotho face severe hunger?
3. Why are people in Lesotho facing severe hunger?
4. How many people in rural areas are one step away from famine?
5. Identify the inter-governmental organisation (IGO) that launched a $34m appeal for more funding.
6. Why are the government feeling difficulties in receiving help from its development partners?
7. How is the European Commission providing support?
8. How is the World Food Programme (WFP) providing support?

Location - identify the location of Lesotho on the map below.

Describe the location of Lesotho. Don’t forget to use C = continent, L = lines of latitude, O = oceans and seas, C = compass direction, D = distance/boundaries nearby.

Impacts - What are the social, economic and environmental impacts of drought?

Social Impacts
- Economic Impacts
- Environmental Impacts

Links - How does this article link to what we have previously studied in geography and/or what you already know? How does this link to other aspects of geography?

Separator Challenge - The current response to this area is Lesotho focuses on the impacts of the drought, however, help can be taken to mitigate the impact of drought. Mitigation means taking action before, or at the beginning of, a drought to help reduce the impacts or effects of drought. What can be done to mitigate drought?
Homework at KS3

We are learning about... The China One Child Policy

How is this different to... France?

- Key Words: Pro-natal policy
- Fertility rate:

We are learning about... The UK’s ageing population

How is this different to... Uganda?

- Key Words: Youthful population
- Dependency ratio:

Homework menus...

Geography in the news...

How is this different to...

• India V China. Who is the biggest superpower in the world? Introduction to Superpowers

• BRICS and MINT

• India – location, population and characteristics

• India – economic growth & TNCs

• China – Problems and solutions of urbanisation

• What is the future for India?

• China – location, population and characteristics

• China – economic growth & Manufacturing industry

• China – problems and solutions of economic growth

• What is the future for China?

• Future superpowers – Asian Tigers

Homework: USA, Russia, Brazil & South Africa

Useful websites, articles and podcasts:

- [https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zmfh2f9w9/ks3/](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zmfh2f9w9/ks3/)
- [https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zmfh2f9w9/ks3/](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zmfh2f9w9/ks3/)
- [https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zmfh2f9w9/ks3/](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zmfh2f9w9/ks3/)
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- [https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zmfh2f9w9/ks3/](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zmfh2f9w9/ks3/)

Challenges: Is immigration rather than this policy, to blame for the increase in population?

Challenges: Why do you think the countries with the youngest populations are all in Africa?
In 2014 in a BBC Radio 4 interview Prof Hattie said: “Homework in primary school has an effect of around zero. In high school it’s larger ... which is why we need to get it right, not why we need to get rid of it.

“Certainly I think we get over obsessed with homework. Five to 10 minutes has the same effect of one hour to two hours. The worst thing you can do with homework is give kids projects. The best thing you can do is to reinforce something you have already learnt.”