

Royal
Geographical
Society
with IBG



Impossible Places



Situation

Thousands of tourists now visit Nepal's southern Everest Base Camp, at 5,380m, each year. Trekkers 'pass through' staying for a night or so whilst mountaineers stay for several days, or weeks, to acclimatise before making an ascent on Mount Everest, 8,848m, the highest land above sea level in the world. Hence, Everest Base Camp is a temporary settlement, often referred to as 'tent city.' Rubbish left behind in and around Everest Base Camp has been a concern over the last two decades.

Task

This assessment is divided into two tasks:

1. Taking part in a role-play
2. Producing a plan (detailed map of a small area).

Imagine that a proposal has been made to build a more permanent settlement at Everest Base Camp. Whilst this is 'imagined' the Chinese Government plan on building a road up to the base camp on the Tibetan side of Mount Everest.

For the role-play you will take the role of one group of people. Working in a group you will need to plan a speech that argues your group's point of view about the proposed settlement. Your points need to be backed up with facts so as to make them convincing. You will also need to produce four questions to ask at the Public Meeting that will be held about the proposed settlement. The groups at this meeting the groups will be:

Trekkers

Porters

Mountain Doctors

Mountaineers

Glaciologists

Himalayan Trust Members

Sherpas

Ecologists

Sagamatha National Park Officers

For your plan you will work as an individual. You will need to produce a village plan that would suit all groups in Everest Base Camp by including all the facilities that they need. Your choice of design, infrastructure and facilities will need to be explained.



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Geography Assessment Criteria

You will be assessed on the key concepts of:

- Place
- Environmental Interaction
- Sustainable Development
- Values and Attitudes
- Diversity

You will be assessed on the key processes of:

- Planning enquiry
- Asking questions
- Use of Sources
- Drawing conclusions
- Communicating

Use your levelling grid to work out what you actually need to do for your target level.

Time Allowed

You will have **five** lessons and **one** homework for this assessment.

Citizenship Assessment Criteria

You will be assessed on the key concepts of:

- Values and attitudes
- Diversity
- Interdependence

You will be assessed on the key processes of:

- Enquiry
- Sources

Use your levelling grid to work out what you actually need to do for your target level.

Hand in Date:

Resources you will need

- Levelling Grid
- Resource Sheet A4-EP - Assessment Activity
- Resource Sheet B – Using Sources
- Resource Sheet C – Planning the Assessment
- Resource Sheet D – Role Briefs
- Resource Sheet E – Public Meeting Note-taking Outline.
- Card for your prompt cards
- Plain A4 paper
- Plain A3 paper

You will Need to Hand In

- Your notes from the Public Meeting - Resource Sheet E.
- Your group speech - have your name on your section.
- Your four questions to ask.
- Your Plan - Resource Sheet A.
- A list of sources that you used - Resource Sheet B.
- Your annotated plan of your proposed Everest Base Camp.



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Preparation Work

- 1) Find out which group you are role-playing.
- 2) Research information about your group (use Resource Sheet E to help).
- 3) As a group produce a group speech.
- 4) Decide who will say what - everyone should say something.
- 5) Practice your speech.
- 6) During the role-play listen carefully and make notes (use Resource Sheet E).

Your Speech

Your group speech will need to cover the following in a maximum of four minutes:

- 1) An introduction that states which group you are representing and what this group does.
- 2) Facts about what you want to happen.
- 3) Reasons for why you want this to happen.
- 4) A Conclusion that states clearly whether or not you want a permanent settlement at the southern Base Camp of Everest. If so, what facilities would you like and why you would like it.
- 5) Prompt cards for you to use.

As an individual have your part of the speech and your four questions that you would like to ask.

Your Plan

You will draw this yourself. You need to draw a plan of a permanent Everest Base Camp to show the facilities that you think will be required, together with the infrastructure needed for it to run smoothly and sustainably.

Your plan will need:

1. A title.
2. A box around it.
3. A key.
4. A north arrow.
5. Shading.
6. Annotations that describe the sustainable approaches used to manage the fragile environment.*¹

¹ The annotations (short paragraphs about the feature your label line points to) need to describe the feature in detail and explain (give reasons) as to why it is so important. It would also be worthwhile to have an introductory paragraph at the top of your page stating what sustainability is and a conclusion at the bottom of your page stating how sustainable you think your village plan is and how you think it will protect the fragile Everest environment.

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Use of Sources

As you look up information remember to make a note of the title, author, and date it was published and some notes about whether you think that your information is biased in anyway. Think about who produced it, the focus of the information and when it was produced. All these things can influence bias. For levels four and five you could use Resource Sheet B for this. You will need to hand this in.

Writing Styles for Impossible Places

You will need to use descriptive, explanative and persuasive writing in your labels. Remember to use a lot of geographical vocabulary for nouns and verbs. Lots of adjectives will also make your writing more interesting. Make your writing flow well by using emphasis and logic connectives.

Useful Vocabulary

attitude
boundary
choice
conservation
eco-tourist
glacier
preservation
sustainable
value
wilderness

Useful Connectives

Connectives for Emphasis

most of all
mostly
mainly
significantly

Connectives for Logic

for example
therefore
this shows

