



# Opportunities and challenges of the Rub' al-Khali

**Royal  
Geographical  
Society**  
with IBG

Advancing geography  
and geographical learning

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## Learning Goals

1. Identify the opportunities and challenges faced in developing a desert environment.
2. Apply key information to support ideas.

**Oman**  
Jewel of Arabia



# Adaptions - recap

**Command word:** to 'explain' you should give reasons for. Using the **PEE** structure helps with this. You should make **TWO** different points.

**Focus:** this question is asking you to look at a plant OR an animal. You need to choose one and know something about them.

**Explain** how a **plant** or **animal** has adapted to the **desert environment**.

**Evidence:** this question is all about adaption, so you need to talk about how a named plant or animal has adapted.

Point  
Evidence  
Explain



# Peer/self-marking

- Use this check list to assess your/your partner's answer. Use it also to write feedback.
  - Were there two separate points?
  - Were both points for a plant/animal?
  - Were the points named (i.e. the Arabian Fox)
  - Were the points developed to explain how they adapt to the desert environment?

# Rub' al-Khali

- The Rub' al-Khali (or the Empty Quarter) is a vast desert biome in the southern Arabian Peninsular and can be found in all four of the Arabian countries in the region: Saudi Arabia, Oman, Yemen and the UAE.
- It is approximately 650,000 km<sup>2</sup>.
- It is one of the driest regions in the world and is sparsely populated.
- Two oil fields have been found in the Saudi Arabian part of the Rub' al Khali.



Image Credit: Franck Lemozy, Pexels

What are the potential opportunities and challenges for this place?



# Card sort

1. Look at the cards you have and separate them into opportunities and challenges.
2. Split them further into sub-categories covering social, economic and environmental.
3. Rank your cards from most to least important.
4. Choose your top two opportunities and challenges and summarise them in your notes.



# Exam question

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Evaluate the opportunities and challenges facing a named desert environment.

**Introduction:** 2 short sentences, 1 to define opportunities and challenges, 1 to introduce the place (Rub' al Khali)

Opportunity (paragraph 1)

**Point**

**Evidence**

**Explain**

Challenge (paragraph 2)

**Point**

**Evidence**

**Explain**

**Conclusion:** are there more opportunities than challenges or via versa?

**Connectives and sentence starters**

However, on the other hand, for example, this is because, one opportunity/challenge.

**Oman**  
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