

Geographical Careers in Food Security – Teacher Support Pack

This teacher support pack supplements the Royal Geographical Society's 'Geographical Careers in Food Security' resource.

This teacher support pack contains the following:

1. Aim of student resource
2. Links to GCSE and A Level specification
3. Detail and context about the job profiles used in the student resource
4. Answers to the activities in the student resource
5. Links to further support

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1. Aim of student resource

The aim of the 'Geographical Careers in Food Security' resource is to showcase the range of ways that geography is used within the food security sector, supported by examples of real jobs. The resource is a tool to blend careers education into the geography curriculum, specifically geography at GCSE and A Level.

The resource also aims to strengthen skills in critical thinking and evaluation.

The resource supports teachers in providing careers provision under *Gatsby Benchmark 4: Linking curriculum learning to careers*. For more information on the Gatsby Benchmarks, visit: [Gatsby benchmarks of good career guidance](#)

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2. Links to specification

GCSE links:

AQA: Section C: The challenge of resource management, specifically, 3.2.3.2 'Different strategies can be used to increase food supply'

OCR B: Topic 8: Resource Reliance, 8.2 Can we feed nine billion people by 2050? a. 'What does it mean to be food secure?', b. How can countries ensure their food security', c. 'How sustainable are these strategies?'

Edexcel A: Topic 5: Global development, specifically '5.3a 'impact of uneven development on ... access to food security'.

WJEC: Key idea 8.1 Consumerism and its impact on the environment, specifically 8.1.2 'How may climate change affect people and the environment and how can technology be used and people's lifestyles changes to reduce these impacts?'

A Level links:

AQA: 3.2.4 Population and the environment; 3.2.4.2 'Strategies to ensure food security', 3.2.4.3 'Role of international agencies and NGOs in promoting health'

OCR: Topic 3.4 Future of Food, specifically; '5. Is there hope for food?', Key Idea 5.a '..a number of key places will continue to influence the food system' and 5.b 'There is a spectrum of strategies that exist to ensure and improve food security'

Edexcel: Key idea 6.7a 'growing demand for food ..has led to contrasting regional trends in land use cover affecting terrestrial carbon stores...'
7.6a 'Superpower resource demands ... can cause environmental degradation'

WJEC: 4.3 Economic growth and challenge: either India or China, specifically; 4.3.6 'environmental issues of food security' and 4.3.7 'strategies to improve the security of food'

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3. Detail and context of job profiles

The job profiles outlined below aim to provide real-world examples of careers within food security. They are all based on real job postings, which have been linked in a separate downloadable document, 'Job Descriptions', which can be found on the webpage. This information aims to support teachers with a contextual understanding of careers in food security at local, national and international scales. The jobs may not necessarily require a geography degree, but they each draw on geographical knowledge and concepts taught across the GCSE and A Level geography curriculum.

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1. National Sustainability Assistant	2. Marketing and Engagement Officer	3. Policy Advisor
<p>Organisation: Aldi</p> <p>Salary: £36,625 to £42,770</p> <p>Location: National</p> <p>Early career</p> <p>A sustainability assistant helps ensure that the supermarket is following ethical and responsible business practices. It involves developing strategies to ensure that the supermarket reaches sustainability and environmental targets.</p> <p>Key requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understanding of the environmental impacts of farming - Excellent communication skills - Ability to manage multiple tasks at once 	<p>Organisation: Fareshare</p> <p>Salary: £28,000 to £30,000</p> <p>Location: Deptford, London</p> <p>Early career</p> <p>This role involves running social media campaigns to raise awareness of the work the charity does. It involves writing posts for the charity's social media platforms, newsletters and website.</p> <p>Key requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong written and communication skills - Awareness of how social media advertising works - Ability to meet tight deadlines under pressure 	<p>Organisation: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs</p> <p>Salary: £31,000*</p> <p>Location: London</p> <p>Early career</p> <p>This role involves contributing to government environmental policies, including researching and analysing data to inform policy changes. It also involves writing briefing documents for government officials to use in parliament.</p> <p>Key requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ability to analyse data and interpret evidence - Excellent written skills - Able to meet deadlines and work collaboratively



4. Grocery Buying Manager	5. Sales Executive	6. Programme Policy Officer
<p>Organisation: Abel & Cole</p> <p>Salary: £56,000*</p> <p>Location: London</p> <p>Mid-Level</p> <p>The grocery buying manager oversees what produce the company will stock and sell to customers. As a manger, this role involves leading a small team and taking responsibility for the sales and product quality, ensuring the produce they buy aligns with company values.</p> <p>Key requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Leadership skills- Confidence in numeracy- Attention to detail	<p>Organisation: Too Good To Go</p> <p>Salary: £27,000*</p> <p>Location: London</p> <p>Early career</p> <p>This role involves encouraging businesses like cafes, bakeries and restaurants to participate in Too Good To Go. It involves cold calling businesses directly or visiting businesses in person to pitch why they should sign up to the programme.</p> <p>Key requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Confident communication skills- High energy and self-motivated; passionate about the Too Good to Go mission- Organisation and time management skills	<p>Organisation: United Nations</p> <p>Salary: £34,000*</p> <p>Location: International</p> <p>Mid-Level</p> <p>A programme policy officer for the UN designs and implements policies to help improve food security in the specific region they are working in. This involves analysing data, collaborating with national governments and coordinating food assistance programmes.</p> <p>Key requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Work experience in international development- Proficiency in an official UN language, such as Arabic or French (in addition to English)- Strong analytical and communication skills



7. Schools Programme Facilitator	8. Delivery Driver	9. Local Programme Manager
<p>Organisation: Bertha Earth</p> <p>Salary: £32,000*</p> <p>Location: London</p> <p>Early career</p> <p>This role involves designing and delivering workshops in schools that focus on educating primary school aged children about the environment and importance of social action. It also involves running residential trips for students to local farms, where they can learn more about the value of food.</p> <p>Key requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Experience in teaching and working with young people- Creative and innovative- Passionate about environmental education	<p>Organisation: Riverford</p> <p>Salary: £13.86 per hour</p> <p>Location: Southeast London</p> <p>Early career</p> <p>The job involves delivering boxes of organic fruit and vegetables on a weekly basis to paying customers. On average, this person delivers 70 boxes a day and the day starts early between 4am and 6am. The day is done when all boxes have been delivered.</p> <p>Key requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Excellent communication and customer service skills; punctual- Understanding of the importance of organic fruit and veg for people and planet- Responsible driver	<p>Organisation: Soil Association</p> <p>Salary: £31,000 to £34,000*</p> <p>Location: Kent, South East England</p> <p>Mid-Level</p> <p>This job involves supporting school canteens with implementing the Food for Life award scheme. This includes visiting canteens to monitor their progress in implementing the scheme and educating providers on the importance of delivery a healthy food experience to support the health of the local population.</p> <p>Key requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Building strong relationships- Leadership- Project management skills, including meeting deadlines and setting long-term goals

*Salaries have been estimated and may vary depending on experience and location.

4. Answers to the activities in the student resource

Main Task [Local, National, International]

<p>1. Design and implement a food waste reduction strategy as a National Sustainability Assistant for a chain of national supermarkets and help supermarkets achieve sustainability and environmental targets</p>	<p>2. Create social media posts that help raise awareness of the importance of managing food waste in the UK as a Marketing and Engagement Officer for a national charity</p>	<p>3. Design and implement government policies that impact how food is grown and managed in the UK as a Policy Advisor for the government Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.</p>
<p>4. Help people access ethical and sustainable food as a Grocery Buying Manager for an organic food online shop that delivers across the UK. Choose the food that the shop sell, ensuring that the food has sustainable environmental credentials</p>	<p>5. Encourage restaurants, cafes and takeaway shops to sign up to a food waste app that sells leftover food at a discounted price to the public as a Sales Executive for social impact company. The company operates in the UK, France and Denmark</p>	<p>6. Write important documents to help improve food security in an emerging or developing country. This includes running food assistance projects and participating in international climate meetings (like the UN climate talks) as a Programme Policy Officer for the United Nation's World Food Programme</p>
<p>7. Teach primary school children about where food comes from and educate them on environmental issues as a Schools Programme Facilitator for an education charity based in London</p>	<p>8. Help people access organic fresh produce as a Delivery Driver for a company that delivers organic fruit and vegetables that are grown locally to people's homes every week across Southeast London</p>	<p>9. Work with school canteens across South East England to support them in ensuring their food is healthy and sourced in an environmentally friendly way as a Local Programme Manager for a charity</p>

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Extension Activities

1a. Sort the job roles into top-down (government and large organisations) and bottom-up (charity and community led) solutions

Top-down solutions	Bottom-up solutions
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. National Sustainability Assistant3. Policy Advisor4. Grocery Buying Manager5. Sales Executive6. Programme Policy Officer8. Delivery Driver	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Marketing and Engagement Officer7. Schools Programme Facilitator9. Local Programme Manager

1b. No correct answer, students can choose their own ranking

1c. Example answer

I have ranked National Sustainability Assistant as having the largest impact on improving food security in the UK. This is because it is a top-down solution and therefore will impact many people and have a big impact on the environment by XXXXX.

Credit may be awarded for use of sentence conjunctives, e.g. 'because', 'so', 'therefore', 'as a result ...'. Use of these conjunctives ensures that students are explaining and justifying their response. Higher lever responses may also use key terms such as 'top-down' to show confidence in their understanding of key geographical concepts.



Links to further support

- Royal Geographical Society's career pages: [Choose a career with geography - RGS](#)
- Teacher CPD: [Teacher events - RGS](#)
- I am a Geographer: [I am a geographer - RGS](#)
- Statutory careers guidance for schools: [Careers guidance and access for education and training providers - GOV.UK](#)