

A Level (includes AS) Geography (9696)

Can I teach the AS/A level course in one year?

AS Geography is designed to provide the foundation for further study to the full A level. Therefore it is expected that the AS level part of the syllabus will be taught in the first year of an A level course, even if candidates are not examined for the AS level at the end of the first year. The advanced options should then be covered in the second year. In some circumstances it may be possible to cover the whole syllabus in one year, but this is unlikely to be possible if the student is trying to do three A levels within one year.

How many hours contact time do you recommend for AS /A level?

Over the two years of an A level course 4.5 to 5 hours per week of teaching time is adequate. Obviously students will need to do individual work outside of this time.

What support materials are available?

Syllabus;

Specimen Question Papers and Mark Schemes;

AS Standards Booklet) this contains student answers to AS questions along with the marks and comments of a senior A level examiner);

A level Standards Booklet is now available;

AS Question Papers and Mark Schemes are available from the June 2001 examinations onwards. A level Question Papers and Mark Schemes are available from the June 2002 examinations onwards.

All the above are available from CIE Publications.

What INSET is available for A and AS geography?

Details of CIE INSET can be found on our website (<http://www.cie.org.uk/learning/training/index.html>). Any requests for INSET should be sent to the Training and Conference Unit at CIE.

Do I have to cover all of the syllabus at AS level?

As there are five compulsory questions in Section A of the AS paper it is vital that all parts of the syllabus are covered.

What is the six factor day model?

The syllabus itemises the components of the six factor day model - *incoming solar radiation, reflected solar radiation, energy absorbed into the surface and subsurface, sensible heat transfer, latent heat transfer/evaporation, long wave earth radiation*. Basically it is informing you of the factors that need to be covered in looking at the energy budget for incoming radiation. You need to cover each of these six 'sub-topics' and their inter-relationships. Collins Educational Atmospheric Processes and Human Influences; text covers these items pretty well, for example from p30 onwards, apart from the role of latent heat in the system. The diagram on p31 is a useful starting point, though it ignores sensible heat transfer, ie by winds and ocean currents. To cover these heat transfers you need to look at the diagram p32 as a starting point, though I have seen simpler examples. This is the starting point for 2.2 The Earth- atmosphere energy budget.

All the six factor model is stating is what you need to cover in looking at the energy budget, i.e meanings, definitions, explanations and how these may vary during the day. They provide the basics for understanding the processes operating within the atmosphere at a variety of scales, from global circulation down to localised convection

The four factor night model simply requires you to cover the processes acting at night as insolation ceases. ie radiation to space, cooling of the ground, frost, dew, etc. Again this is an introduction leading into Weather processes and phenomena.

You may find Weather and Climate in Africa; Longman; Buckle C; ISBN 0 582 09333 3 useful. It doesn't refer as such to the named models, but covers all the necessary aspects thoroughly.

I can only afford one textbook for each student. What should I buy?

It is always difficult to recommend one book. A good basic text that covers the AS and most of the A level is Environment and People, M Witherick (Ed), pub Stanley Thornes, ISBN 0748721207. I would also recommend Guinness P and Nagle G; Advanced Geography: Concepts and Cases (1999) Hodder & Stoughton Educational; ISBN: 0340725087. However, there are other texts being published for UK AS and A levels that may be even better. Details will be posted on the CIE website when such books have been reviewed.

Papers 2 and 3 seem to be timetabled together?

Papers 2 and 3 will come in a combined question paper for which 3 hours is required: there is no half-time interval. Candidates are required to answer the two 'Papers' in separate answer books and these are collected separately for despatch to CIE. Examiners will mark either Paper 2 or paper 3, not both. The papers could have been designed as entirely distinct Question papers of 1½ hours duration each. By giving 3 hours for the combined papers candidates may apportion their time a little differently: if they haven't much to write about on the Physical Options they can move on to the Human Options before the 1½ hours is up and go back to the Physical Options later if they have time or sudden inspiration. Candidates do need to be aware of how much time they are spending on Paper 2 and give themselves enough time to complete their answers to Paper 3. Candidates are welcome to start on the Paper 3 questions and then move on to Paper 2.

What skills will be needed by candidates, particularly in Section A of Paper 1?

In Section A of Paper 1 all the questions will have some sort of resource. Questions in other parts of that paper and in Papers 2 & 3 for the A level may also have resources. CIE will try to use resources that have been published and adapt them as necessary. Any resource that is used will be of a suitable standard for the examination and will be understandable provided that the candidates have had exposure to a variety of resources in preparation for the exam. The range and style of resources used will be similar to those in A and AS textbooks, but possibly simplified for the purposes of the examination. Candidates should be able to interpret tables, graphs, written sources, diagrams, sketches, photographs and maps. Maps at a variety of scales may be used, from those showing world distributions to detailed plans of a settlement or a river channel.

Survey maps such as have been used in the previous CIE A level Geography syllabuses, Paper 1 Question 1, may be set, but the types of question familiar from the old A level of annotated sketch maps of relief and/or drainage followed by explanations for them, will **NOT** be set. Should survey maps be used they will be used as sources of information for interpretation and analysis by the candidates in a similar way to any other type of map. Such questions would therefore be fairly straightforward ones on the units of the AS syllabus, i.e. drainage basins or river channel landforms, possibly something on slope form and aspects of rural and urban settlement. Survey maps will not be used regularly.