



AS/A Level Geology

(Available for teaching from September 2008)

This specification affords candidates the opportunity to study geological processes that operate at and below the Earth's surface, the evidence of past life and the uses made of geological materials. Through this specification learners will also cover the processes and products that form our planet and its rocks.



What are the benefits to me and my students of delivering this OCR specification?

- This specification has been developed in consultation with teachers, organisations such as the British Geological Survey, the Earth Science Teachers' Association, the Earth Science Education Unit, professional bodies such as the Geological Society, universities, GEES and industry such as Oil and Gas UK.
- This specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills of GCSE Science, no prior knowledge of Geology is required.
- The specification contains all the detail that teachers will need without increasing the content.
- There is less emphasis on recall and more on understanding and application.
- Much of the work is evidence-based and linked to the reconstruction of past environments.
- An appreciation of geodiversity and geoconservation will be developed together with an awareness of the finite nature of the Earth's resources.

AS Level

Unit title	Description	Mandatory/Optional?
F791: Global Tectonics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earth structure • Earthquakes • Continental drift, sea floor spreading and plate tectonics • Geological structures 	Mandatory
F792: Rocks – Processes and Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rock cycle • Igneous processes and products • Sedimentary processes and products • Metamorphic processes and products 	Mandatory
F793: Practical Skills in Geology 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centre-based or fieldwork task • Evaluative task 	Mandatory

A2 Level

Unit title	Description	Mandatory/Optional?
F794: Environmental geology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water supply • Energy resources • Metallic mineral deposits • Engineering geology 	Mandatory
F795: Evolution of Life, Earth and Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of fossils • Morphology of fossils and adaptation of organisms to live in different environments • Fossil evidence of the evolution of organisms and mass extinctions • Dating methods, correlation methods and interpretation of geological maps • Changing climate 	Mandatory
F796: Practical Skills in Geology 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centre-based or Fieldwork task • Evaluative task 	Mandatory

All the Units in the new specification are mandatory, so they will all need to be taught.

We suggest that at AS F791 should be taught before F792

We suggest that at A2 F794 should be taught before F795.

How is this qualification assessed?

Four Units (two at AS, two at A2) are externally assessed through written examinations.

Two Units (one at AS, one at A2) are internally assessed, moderated by post, and will assess students' practical skills. The assessment uses OCR-set tasks and mark schemes.

There is an option for centres to devise their own fieldwork tasks, but the plan must be submitted for approval beforehand.

Dates of first examinations

AS

January 2009 - Global tectonics

June 2009 - Global tectonics, Rocks – Processes and Products, Practical Skills in Geology 1.

A2

January 2010 - Environmental geology

June 2010 - Environmental Geology, Evolution of Life, Earth and Climate, Practical Skills in Geology 2.

What support will I receive?

Training

From October 2007, a variety of INSET courses will be available to prepare centres for the changeover and to support teachers and students after September 2008.

Publishers

Heinemann will be publishing a book to support the specification, written by OCR examiners and edited by the Chief Examiner.

Resources

You can download all the following resources from the OCR website – www.ocr.org.uk.

- Sample Assessment Material
- Schemes of Work
- Teacher Guidance..

For more information please contact the OCR Customer Contact Centre
on **01223 553998**, or visit www.ocr.org.uk