

key stage ④ 2001

GCSE Geography

Edexcel has developed its GCSE Geography qualifications to match the revised GCSE subject criteria. These have been accredited by QCA for first examination in June 2003.

Specification A is an interesting and stimulating course, providing a firm grounding in all key areas of human, physical and environmental geography. The option units are synoptic in nature, drawing together ideas from across the core units, helping students to understand the interrelationships that are at the heart of so much geographical study.

Specification B offers a new, exciting and innovative approach to geography, developing the enquiry and decision-making skills that are essential for students to become familiar with the people-environment emphasis of this course. It focuses on the issues that so many students care about and want to investigate further; as well as raising the issues, the course encourages students to consider the possible solutions.

Short Course derives from specification A and overlaps with specification B.

Key Features

- Choice of optional units
- Clear and manageable case study requirements
- Free choice of coursework topic
- Coursework supported by exemplar material
- Teaching schemes including ICT and key skills opportunities
- INSET programmes to cover all aspects of the qualification

Support and Materials

- Specimen papers
- Specification guide
- Student guide
- Newsletters
- Supporting textbooks and on-line resources
- Edexcel's regional network provides both office and subject support at a local level

You can find a full range of specifications, specimen assessment material and student guides on our website at www.edexcel.org.uk. If you prefer, or have not received the material that you require, you may order hard copies of materials from our Publications Department on 01623 467 467.

Geography GCSE Spec A

This specification organises content into distinct themes. A set of compulsory units ensures that students have a broad and balanced overview of the subject, while a series of optional units allows them to study selected themes in greater depth.

Core units	Option units <i>(Choose one B unit and one C unit)</i>
A1: The physical world - Rivers, glaciers, coasts	B5: Managing the environment - Cliff recession, flooding, sustainable management
A2: The human world - Population, settlement	B6: Managing hazards - Tropical storms, tectonic hazards
A3: The economic world - Agriculture, industry	C7: Managing tourism - Growth, impact, sustainable solutions
A4: The natural world - Weather, climate, biomes	C8: Managing urban areas - MEDC cities, growth in LEDCs, sustainable management strategies

The compulsory units will be assessed by a written exam of 1hr 45 mins (weighted at 45%); the option units will be assessed by a written exam of 1hr 15 mins (30%); one piece of coursework (25%) will be required.

Geography GCSE Spec B

This specification provides students with the opportunity to investigate many of the major issues that currently affect today's citizens, and it looks ahead to the changes that are likely to affect students as the citizens of the future. It is also designed to provide an ideal foundation for the new AS/A GCE Geography specification B.

Core units	Option units <i>(Choose one B unit and one C unit)</i>
A1: Providing for population change - Population dynamics, resources	B4: Use & abuse of the environment – Water - Sources, improving water supply, sustainability
A2: Planning for change Settlement, employment	B5: Use & abuse of the environment – Weather & climate - As a resource, modification, climate change
A3: Coping with environmental change - Coasts, hazards	C6: Use & abuse of the environment – Farming - Impact of modern methods, alternative methods
	C7: Use & abuse of the environment – Recreation & tourism Countryside and recreation, sustainability

One compulsory unit will be assessed by a decision-making exercise (1hr 15 mins, 25%). The other four units studied will be assessed by a written exam (2 hours, 50%). One piece of coursework (25%) will be required.

INSET

- Half day meetings around the country introducing the new Geography specifications from autumn 2000 and continuing in 2001
- Planning meetings for the new Specifications from Spring 2001

Details are in our Geography INSET guide and on our website. Also look out for the INSET updates which went into schools and colleges in December 2000.

These meetings will outline the full range of Geography specifications and will enable you to see examples of support material that we are producing. You will also have the opportunity to raise questions.

Further Information

If you are interested in obtaining more information on this or any other Edexcel qualification, please contact our Customer Response Centre on tel 0870 240 9800, fax 020 7758 6960, or email enquiries@edexcel.org.uk.