

## New GCSE Specification: AQA A

### Content:

Unit 1 – Physical Geography (three topics, at least one from each section and one other):

Section A:

- Earthquakes and Volcanoes
- Rocks, resources and scenery
- Challenge of weather and climate
- Ecosystems (rainforests, deserts, types of plants/animals etc.)

Section B:

- Water on the land - rivers
- Ice on the land - glaciers
- The coastal zone

Unit 2 – Human Geography (three topics, at least one from each section and one other):

Section A:

- Population change
- Changing urban (town/city) environments
- Changing rural (countryside) environments

Section B:

- The development gap (rich/poor countries)
- Globalisation
- Tourism

### Exams:

2 x 1h30m (each worth 37.5%). Exams available June from 2010. One re-sit opportunity.

You could do one paper in the summer of Y10 and the second in the summer of Y11.

A short course version is available.

### Controlled Assessment (25%):

Local Fieldwork Investigation – 6 hours – choice of one topic from 11.

## New GCSE Specification: AQA B

### Content:

Unit 1 – Managing Places in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:

The coastal environment OR The Urban (town/city) Environment.

Unit 2 – Hostile World:

Living with Natural Hazards OR The challenge of extreme environments (deserts, rainforests, cold environments).

Unit 3 – Investigating the shrinking world:

Investigating the globalisation of industry OR Investigating global tourism.

### Exams:

3 x 1hr @ 25% each. Exams available in January and June each year. You could do one in the January of Y10, another in the summer and the final exam the summer of Y11. This would provide opportunities to re-sit.

A short course version is available.

### Controlled Assessment (25%):

Local Fieldwork Investigation (choice from 4 topics) – 4 hours (15%) and Geographical Issue Investigation (choice of 2 topics) – 2 hours (10%). Two pieces of coursework to be done separately at different times in the course.

## New GCSE Specification: Edexcel A

### Content:

Unit 1 – Geographical Skills and Challenges:

Section A: Geographical skills

Section B: Challenges for the Planet

- Climate change *and*
- Sustainable development

Unit 2 – The Natural Environment:

Section A: Choose ONE from

- Coastal landscapes
- River landscapes
- Glaciated (ice) landscapes
- Tectonic (earthquakes and volcanoes) landscapes

Section B: Choose ONE from

- A wasteful world
- A watery world

Unit 3 – The Human Environment:

Section A: Choose ONE from

- Economic change (jobs and businesses)
- Farming and the countryside
- Settlement change
- Population change

Section B: Choose ONE from

- A moving world (migration)
- A tourists world

### Exams:

3 x 1 hour @ 25% each. Exams available in January and June each year. You could do one in the summer of Y10, one in the January of Y11 and the final exam in the summer of Y11. This would provide opportunities to re-sit.

### Controlled Assessment (25%):

Local Fieldwork Investigation (choice from 8 topics) – recommended 7 hours write-up time but more if needed. Choice of presentation format e.g. Written report, PowerPoint, diary, webpage etc.

**Content:**

Unit 1 – Dynamic Planet

Section A – Introduction to the Dynamic Planet: Earthquakes and Volcanoes, Climate and Change, Ecosystems and Water World.

Section B – Small-scale Dynamic Planet, ONE from:

- Coastal change and conflict OR
- River processes and pressures

Section C – Large-scale Dynamic Planet, ONE from:

- Oceans on the edge OR
- Extreme Climates

Unit 2 – People and the Planet

Section A – Introduction to the People and the Planet: Population Dynamics, Living Spaces (towns, cities and countryside areas) and Making a Living (jobs and businesses).

Section B – Small-scale People and the Planet, ONE from:

- Changing Cities OR
- Changing Countryside

Section C – Large-scale People and the Planet, ONE from:

- Development Dilemmas (rich and poor places) OR
- World at work (jobs and businesses)

Unit 3 – Making Geographical Decisions (this exam will be taken in the summer of Y11)

A booklet of resources will be published in January and these will form the basis for the exam which is about making decisions. You will study the topic using the resources to fully prepare you for the summer exam.

**Exams:**

3 x 1 hour @ 25% each. Exams available in January and June each year. You could do one in the summer of Y10, one in the January of Y11 and the final exam in the summer of Y11 (unit 3). This would provide opportunities to re-sit.

**Controlled Assessment (25%):**

Local Fieldwork Investigation (choice of 8 titles – 2 each from 4 topics) – recommended 8 hours write-up time but more if needed. Choice of presentation format e.g. Written report, PowerPoint, diary, webpage etc.

## New GCSE Specification: OCR A

### Content:

Unit 1 – Extreme Environments (where are they, what are they like, how do people use them, what challenges do they pose):

- Hot desert environments AND
- Polar areas OR mountain areas

Unit 2 – Similarities and Differences

- A study of our part of the UK
- A study of a non-UK location

Unit 3 – Issues in our fast changing world

- Population change
- Our changing planet (climate change and natural events)
- Trade, aid and superpowers
- The challenge of planning (urban, transport, food, water, leisure)

### Exams:

3 x 1 hour @ 25% each. Exams available in June each year. You could do one in the summer of Y10, and the other two in the summer of Y11. This would provide an opportunity to re-sit the first unit.

### Controlled Assessment (25%):

You as a global citizen – two tasks:

1. Investigate how consumer decisions may have a positive or negative impact on people.
2. Investigate a local retail area.

4-6 hours write-up time for each task.

Choice of presentation format e.g. Written report, PowerPoint, diary, webpage, oral, cartoon, poem, poster etc.

## New GCSE Specification: OCR B

### Content:

Unit 1 and Unit 2 both study the same four themes:

- Rivers and coasts
- Population and settlement
- Natural hazards
- Economic development (jobs, businesses, rich and poor places)

Three of these themes are examined in Unit 1 and the other one is examined in unit 2 – a sustainable decision making exercise. A booklet of data will be released before the exam and this will be the basis of work on this unit. The themes rotate each year.

### Exams:

The decision making paper will be taken in the summer of Y10 and is 1 hour long (it counts as 25% of the GCSE). The second exam based on the other three themes will be taken in the summer of Y11 and is 1h30m long (this counts as 50% of the GCSE).

There is a short course version available.

### Controlled Assessment (25%):

Two assessed tasks:

1. Fieldwork focus (based on one of the four themes above). Recommended 10 hours of work. This counts as 15%.
2. Geographical Investigation (on a topic chosen from: disease, trade, ecosystems, sport, fashion, energy, new technologies, crime or tourism). Recommended 6 hours of work. This counts as 10%. This can be presented as a poster, leaflet, website, podcast, oral etc.

## New GCSE Specification: WJEC A

### Content:

Unit 1 – Study all units:

The Physical World:

- River processes and landforms
- Managing rivers
- Causes and effects of climate change
- Reducing the impact of climate change
- Hazards at plate margins
- Reducing the risk of living in an active zone

The Human World:

- World population distribution
- Future changes in world population distribution and structure
- Trends in globalisation
- Impacts of globalisation
- Measuring patterns of development
- Achieving the Millennium Development Goals

Unit 2 – Choose one physical, one human and one other:

Physical Options:

- Our changing coastline
- Weather and climate
- Living things (ecosystems)

Human Options:

- Tourism
- Retail and urban change
- Economic change and Wales

### Exams:

Two exams, one taken in the summer of Y10 (lasting 1h45m, worth 40%) and one taken in the summer of Y11 (lasting 1h15m, worth 35%). This gives one opportunity to re-sit the Y10 paper.

### Controlled Assessment (25%):

Two assessed pieces of work:

1. Fieldwork enquiry (worth 10%). 5 hours write-up time. Presented as a report.
2. Problem solving and decision-making exercise (worth 15%). 8 hours write-up time. Choice of presentation method e.g. oral, newspaper report, PowerPoint, movie etc.

## New GCSE Specification: WJEC B

### Content:

Unit 1 – Challenges and Interactions in Geography:

- Challenges of living in a built environment (living in residential places, changing residential environments, urban-rural interaction)
- People and the natural world interactions (weather and climate influences, water supply, flooding, drought, desertification, rivers and coasts)

Unit 2 – Development and Problem-Solving Geography:

- People, work and development as well as some cross-theme work on the two themes above.

### Exams:

Two exams, one taken in the summer of Y10 (lasting 1 hour, worth 30%) and one taken in the summer of Y11 (lasting 2 hours, worth 45%). This gives one opportunity to re-sit the Y10 paper.

### Controlled Assessment (25%):

Two assessed pieces of work:

1. Fieldwork enquiry (worth 15%). 8 hours write-up time. Presented as an illustrated report.
3. Issue based research (worth 10%). 5 hours write-up time. Choice of presentation method e.g. oral, newspaper report, PowerPoint, movie etc.

## **New GCSE Specification: CCEA**

### **Content:**

Unit 1 – Understanding our Natural World:

- The Dynamic Landscape (rivers and coasts)
- Our Changing Weather and Climate
- The Restless Earth (earthquakes and volcanoes)

Unit 2 – Living in Our World

- People and Where they Live
- Contrasts in World Development (rich and poor places)
- Managing Our Resources

### **Exams:**

Two exams, each lasting 1h30m worth 37.5% each. One will be taken in the summer of Y10 and one in the summer of Y11. This provides one opportunity to re-sit the Y10 examination.

### **Controlled Assessment (25%):**

A fieldwork report of 2000 words. 6 hour time limit for the write-up.