

FAQs relating to the removal of the January examination session for A level Geography

Q: Will there be any limits on the number of times a unit can be sat (or re-sat) before cash-in?

A: Rules concerning re-sits have not changed, so any number of re-sits are possible before cash-in.

Q: Will there be any limits on the number of times an AS or A level qualification can be sat (or re-sat)?

A: Rules concerning re-sitting of the whole qualification have not changed, so an AS or A level in Geography can be sat as often as required.

Q: Can we still resit AS units at the end of the course in Year 13?

A: Yes

Q: How do I deal with Advanced Information (pre-release) for Units 3 and 4 at the same time?

A: There will be no January examination opportunity in 2014. This means that both Units 3 and 4 will be sat by A2 students in June 2014.

For many centres, dealing with both sets of Advanced information at the same time will be business as usual but for some it will be a change. Centres may wish to consider the following:

- where two teachers share a group, one teacher could deal with Unit 4 and one with Unit 3
- with only one teacher, care will need to be taken to set aside specific lessons to deal with each pre-release, to avoid confusion
- it could be wise to colour-code (two paper colours) handouts, resources, research materials, homework tasks etc to make linking these to either Unit 3 or 4 as easy as possible
- it is advisable to spend 4-6 hours in class on each of the Advanced Information for Units 3 and 4.

Further guidance on dealing with the Advanced Information for Units 3 and 4 in class is provided in our new A level Teacher Guidance Booklet - download a copy via www.edexcel.com/subjects/geography/pages/updates.aspx.

Q: Will students be allowed to sit (or re-sit) any number of units at a session, or must they sit 2 AS and/or 2 A2 at a time?

A: Students will be able to sit any number of units at a session; for example, a student might sit AS units in June 2013 and then A2 units in June 2014. Or a student might want to re-sit just an A2 unit in June 2013 or an AS unit in June 2014 which is still possible.

Q: Have cash-in rules changed in any way?

A: No, other than that cash-in opportunities will now only be available for summer sessions.

Q: Have the rules for the award of A* grades changed in any way?

A: No, the rules for the award of A* grades remain the same.

Q: Has the content of the AS or A level changed at all for 2013?

A: No, the content remains the same.

Q: Will January examinations still be available to centres in Wales?

A: Edexcel/Pearson will not be offering January examinations to centres in Wales.

Q: Will January examinations still be available to centres in Northern Ireland?

A: Edexcel/Pearson will not be offering January examinations to centres in Northern Ireland

Q: Will January examinations still be available to centres outside the UK?

A: There will be no January examinations outside the UK for the UK AS and A level Geography.

Q: How do I structure the course now that there are no January exams?

A: See our new Support Guide for a new updated course planner.

Q: When's the best time to deliver Unit 2 fieldwork?

A: When the January exam was available, many centres completed their Unit 2 fieldwork in the Autumn term and sat the exam in January. With no January exam available from September 2013 centres may wish to re-consider when is best to complete the essential fieldwork for Unit 2. There are many options and issues to be considered - see our A level Teacher Guidance Booklet to help inform your planning and decision making.

Q: When are new AS and A levels expected?

A: New AS and A level qualifications are expected to be introduced (subject to Ofqual consultation) for first teaching in September 2015, with first AS examinations in Summer 2016 and first A level examinations in Summer 2017.