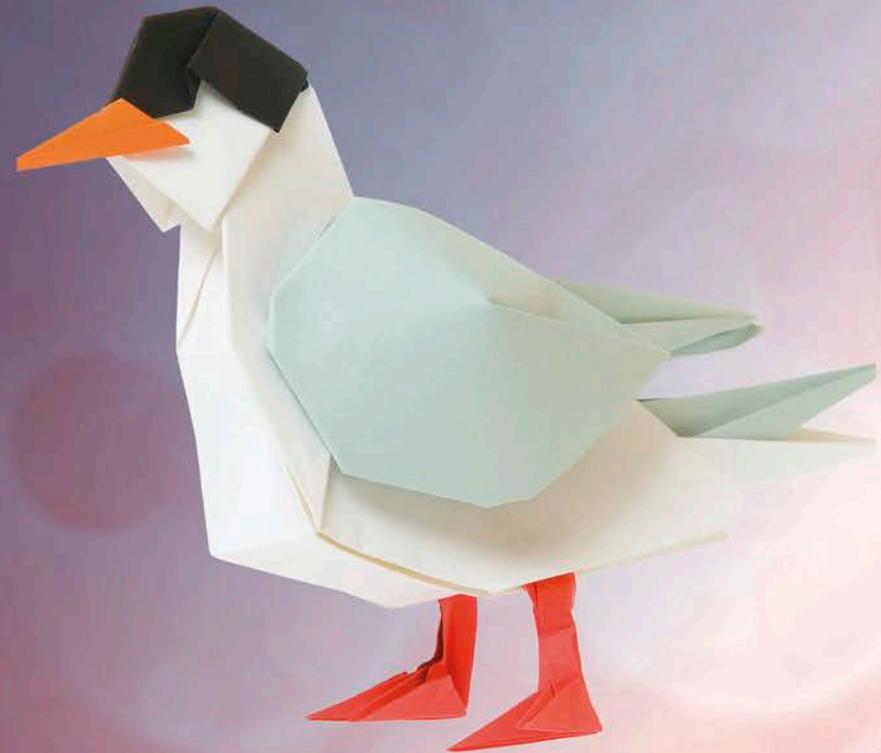


# AS and A level 2016 Geography

AS and A level Geography  
launch event



U273



# Agenda

- Introducing our specification
- GCE reforms and new requirements for Geography
- Our approach
- Overview of our new AS and A level specification content

## Break

- New assessment requirements
- Overview of our new AS and A level assessment
- Support and resources
- Next steps



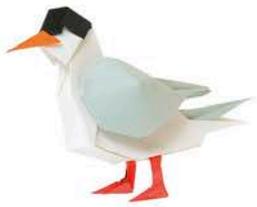
# Geography for all

- Engaging and contemporary issues-based approach to geography
- Supports progression to undergraduate level geography
- Straightforward and flexible content structure
- AS and A level qualifications that are co-teachable
- Clear assessments that offer all students the chance to succeed
- Confidence in geographical skills and fieldwork
- Develops a holistic understanding of geography
- Supports progression from KS4



# The GCE reforms

- All new AS and A levels will be assessed at the same standard as they are currently
- All new AS and A levels will be fully linear
- AS levels will be stand-alone qualifications
- The content of the AS level can be a sub-set of the A level content to allow co-teachability, but marks achieved in the AS will not count towards the A level



# Timeline

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Current Spec	Summer series as normal	Summer series as normal	Final AS resit and A2 exams	
New 2016 Spec	Specs in centres	First teaching (AS level and 2-year A level)	First AS examinations and first teaching (1-year A level)	First A level exams

- The last available assessment for the current AS and A levels will be June 2017
- The reformed AS first assessment is 2017 and A level is 2018



# Key requirements for Geography from 2016

- Core human and physical geography themes
- More detailed expectations for developing geographical skills, qualitative and quantitative data skills
- A level must include all the prescribed skills and AS must include a selection of the skills
- AS now requires a minimum of 2 days of fieldwork
- A level now requires a minimum of 4 days of fieldwork
- Both AS and A level must require fieldwork to be undertaken in relation to physical and human geography
- All A level students will complete one Independent Investigation, which will be a non-examined assessment and must draw on fieldwork: this is 20% of the A level
- AS level fieldwork will be assessed by exam



# Core themes from 2016

1. Water and Carbon Cycles
  2. Landscape Systems
  3. Global Systems Global Governance
  4. Changing Place; Changing Places
- All A level specifications must include all four core themes.
  - All AS specifications must include one physical geography and one human geography core theme
  - The core themes will account for 60% of all AS and A level specifications



# Our research

Research carried out since 2012 with:

- Teachers from schools across the country in face-to-face interviews, phone interviews, focus groups and surveys
- External Subject Advisory Group, including representatives from the teaching community and universities.
- Interviews with the Royal Geographical Society, Geographical Association and Royal Meteorological Association



# Key research findings

- An issues-based approach to the subject content
- Interesting and engaging contemporary geographical content
- Flexible content structure
- Manageable requirements for fieldwork
- Integrated geographical skills assessment
- A synoptic investigation
- Clear, manageable content and assessment
- Focus on physical geography processes
- A level Independent Investigation based on any aspect of the specification content



# Our approach

- An issues-based approach to GCE Geography
- AS includes 2 examined assessment components
- A level includes 3 examined assessment components and a piece of coursework
- Synoptic themes embedded in the compulsory content
- A level includes synoptic investigation and AS includes a synoptic question
- Clear requirements for depth and breadth study
- Integrated geographical skills
- A degree of prescription for AS fieldwork
- Flexibility to base the A level Independent Investigation on any aspect of the specification content



# Our AS specification overview

## Content and assessment overview

### Area of Study 1: Dynamic Landscapes, 50% of AS

1. Tectonic Processes and Hazards
2. Landscape Systems, Processes and Change – **either** Glaciated Landscapes **or** Coastal Landscapes plus a minimum of 1 day of physical geography fieldwork

### Area of Study 2: Dynamic Places, 50% of AS

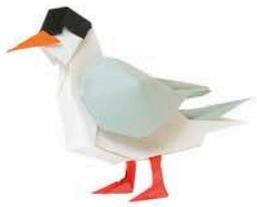
3. Globalisation
4. Shaping Places – **either** Regenerating Places **or** Diverse Places plus a minimum of 1 day of human geography fieldwork

### Paper 1, 50% of qualification

Assessing topics 1 and 2, geographical skills and physical geography fieldwork  
1 hour 30 minutes  
80 marks

### Paper 2, 50% of qualification

Assessing topics 3 and 4, geographical skills and human geography fieldwork  
1 hour 30 minutes  
80 marks



# Our A level specification overview

## Content overview

### Area of Study 1: Dynamic Landscapes, 25% of A level

1. Tectonic Processes and Hazards
2. Landscape Systems, Processes and Change – either Glaciated Landscapes or Coastal Landscapes

### Area of Study 2: Dynamic Places, 25% of A level

3. Globalisation
4. Shaping Places – either Regenerating Places or Diverse Places

### Area of Study 3 Physical Systems and Sustainability, 25% of A level

5. The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
6. The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security
7. Climate Change Futures

### Area of Study 4 Human Systems and Geopolitics, 25% of A level

8. Superpowers
9. Global Development and Connections – either Health, Human Rights and Intervention or Migration, Identity and Sovereignty



# Our A level specification overview



## Assessment overview

### Paper 1, 30% of qualification

Assessing topics 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 and geographical skills  
2 hours  
90 marks

### Paper 2, 30% of qualification

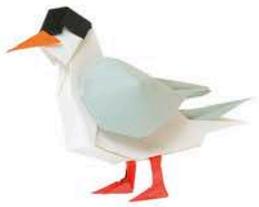
Assessing topics 3, 4, 8 and 9 and geographical skills  
2 hours  
90 marks

### Paper 3, 20% of qualification

Synoptic investigation of a geographical issue  
1 hour 45 minutes  
60 marks

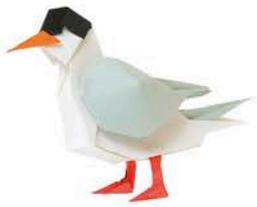
### Coursework, 20% of the qualification

A level Independent Investigation  
60 marks  
Internally assessed and externally moderated.  
Written report of 3000–4000 words



# Fieldwork

- AS students must complete a minimum of **two** days of fieldwork.
- A level students must complete a minimum of **four** days of fieldwork.
- Fieldwork must be carried out in relation to physical and human geography.
- Centres will be required to provide evidence of this fieldwork in the form of a written fieldwork statement.
- AS fieldwork will be externally assessed in both AS Paper 1 and AS Paper 2. Students will answer **one** fieldwork question in each examination.
- The AS specification clearly signposts where and how fieldwork should be carried out.
- Our specification requires AS students to carry out fieldwork in relation to:
  - Area of study 1 Topic 2: Glaciated Landscapes and Change **OR** Coastal Landscapes and Change
  - **AND** Area of study 2 Topic 4: Regenerating Places **OR** Diverse Places.
- A level fieldwork may be carried out in relation to the compulsory or optional specification content.



# A level Independent Investigation

- Student **defines a question or issue** for investigation.
- The topic may relate to **any** aspect of geography contained within the specification
- The student's investigation will incorporate **fieldwork data** (collected individually or as part of a group) and **own research and/or secondary data**
- The fieldwork which forms the focus and context of the individual investigation may be either **human, physical or integrated** physical-human
- The investigation report, **3000-4000 words**, will evidence independent analysis and evaluation of data, presentation of data findings and extended writing



# Synoptic themes and assessment

- The compulsory specification content contains **three** synoptic themes:
  - Players (***P***)
  - Attitudes and actions (***A***)
  - Futures and uncertainties (***F***)
- These are over-arching themes designed to help students make links between different geographical themes, ideas and concepts. The synoptic themes are highlighted in the specification in ***bold italics***.
- A level Paper 3 is a synoptic investigation of an issue that will link to these three themes
- AS Paper 1 and 2, Question 2 contains a 12-mark synoptic question that assesses students' understanding of one of the three synoptic themes



# Discussion

Thinking about what you have seen so far:

1. What do you like about our proposed AS and A level specifications?
2. What, if anything, are you concerned about in our proposals?
3. What do you think you will need the most support with?



# Ofqual requirements assessment objectives

	Assessment objective	AS weighting	A level weighting
<b>AO1</b>	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of places, environments, concepts, processes, interactions and change, at a variety of scales	30-40%	30-40%
<b>AO2</b>	Apply knowledge and understanding in different contexts to interpret, analyse and evaluate geographical information and issues	30-40%	30-40%
<b>AO3</b>	Use a variety of relevant quantitative, qualitative and fieldwork skills to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• investigate geographical questions and issues</li><li>• interpret, analyse and evaluate data and evidence</li><li>• construct arguments and draw conclusions</li></ul>	20-30%	20-30%



# Our assessment objectives



	Assessment objective	AS weighting	A level weighting
<b>AO1</b>	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of places, environments, concepts, processes, interactions and change, at a variety of scales	40%	36%
<b>AO2</b>	Apply knowledge and understanding in different contexts to interpret, analyse and evaluate geographical information and issues	40%	40%
<b>AO3</b>	Use a variety of relevant quantitative, qualitative and fieldwork skills to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>investigate geographical questions and issues</li><li>interpret, analyse and evaluate data and evidence</li><li>construct arguments and draw conclusions</li></ul>	20%	24%



# Assessment principles

- Assessments that provide support and stretch
- Ramped demand within papers and across the entire qualification
- The same assessment structure across AS Papers 1 and 2 and across A level Papers 1 and 2
- Geographical skills to be integrated into each assessment
- Command words linked to particular skills and mark tariffs
- Clear and consistent levels based mark schemes

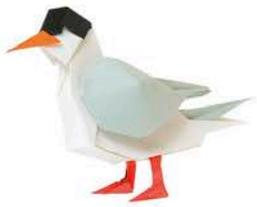


# AS Assessment Overview



Paper 1	Paper 2
1 hour and 30 minutes 50% of the qualification 80 marks	1 hour and 30 minutes 50% of the qualification 80 marks
Three sections – must answer Section A and <b>either</b> Section B <b>or</b> Section C Section A: Tectonic Processes and Change Section B: Glaciated Landscapes and Change and fieldwork Section C: Coastal Landscapes and Change and fieldwork	Three sections – must answer Section A and <b>either</b> Section B <b>or</b> Section C Section A: Globalisation Section B: Regenerating Places and fieldwork Section C: Diverse Places and fieldwork

- May include MCQs, short open, open response, calculations and resource-linked questions
- Includes 9 mark and 12 mark extended writing questions
- Section A, Question 2 contains a 12 mark synoptic question



# A level Assessment Overview

Paper 1	Paper 2
2 hours 30% of qualification 90 marks	2 hours 30% of qualification 90 marks
Four sections Must answer <b>all</b> questions in Section A Tectonic Processes and Hazards, Section C The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity, Section D The Carbon Cycle and Energy Insecurity. Students answer <b>either</b> Question 2 Glaciated Landscapes <b>or</b> Question 3 in Coastal Landscapes in Section B	Four sections Must answer <b>all</b> questions in Section A Globalisation and Section C Superpowers. Students answer <b>one</b> question from Section B Regenerating Places and Diverse Places, and <b>one</b> question from Section D Health, Human Rights and Intervention and Migration, Identity and Sovereignty

- May include short open, open response and resource-linked questions
- Includes 10 mark and 15 mark extended writing questions



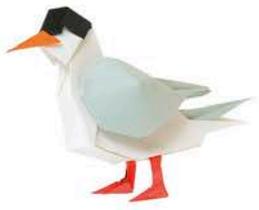
# A level Assessment Overview

Paper 3	Coursework, Independent Investigation
1 hour and 45 minutes 20% of qualification 60 marks	Non-examined assessment 20% of the qualification 60 marks
Synoptic investigation. Resource booklet contains information about a geographical issue within a place-based context that links to the three synoptic themes and is rooted in two or more of the compulsory content areas. Three sections – must answer <b>all</b> question in Section A, B and C. 6 mark, 15 mark and 18 mark extended writing questions.	The student will produce a written report of 3000–4000 words <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Purpose of investigation: 12 marks</li><li>• Field methodologies: 10 marks</li><li>• Data representation and analysis: 20 marks</li><li>• Conclusion and evaluation: 18 marks</li><li>• Total: 60 marks</li></ul> The investigation report is internally assessed and externally moderated.



# AS command words

	1	2	3	4	6	9	12
Identify/Give/Name	*	*					
Define	*						
Calculate	*	*					
Complete	*	*					
Describe	*	*					
Compare		*	*	*			
Suggest		*	*	*			
Explain (short)		*	*	*	*		
Examine						*	*
Assess						*	*



# A level command words

	4	6	10	15	18
Explain (short)	*	*			
Explain (extended)			*		
Examine			*	*	
Assess			*	*	
Analyse		*			
Evaluate				*	*



# AS command words and LBMS



Command	AO1	AO2	AO3	Total marks
Examine	3	6		9
Assess	3	6		9
Fieldwork Assess/Examine			9	9
Synoptic Assess/Examine	3	9		12



# A level command words and LBMS



Command	Total marks	AO1	AO2	AO3
Explain	10	6	4	
Assess/Examine	10	4	6	
Assess/Examine	15	6	9	
Evaluate	15	3	12	
Synoptic Paper Analyse	6	3		3
Synoptic Paper Evaluate	15	3	6	6
Synoptic Paper Evaluate	18	3	6	9



# Discussion

- How clear are the assessment requirements?
- What are the strengths?
- What are you most concerned about?
- What do you think you'll need support with?



# Supporting you through change

What you've told us that you need support with:

- New subject content
- Fieldwork
- Coursework
- Maths and statistics



# Our qualification support

## Planning

- Our Getting Started guide gives you an overview of the new AS and A level qualifications
- Editable AS and A level course planner and schemes of work
- Mapping documents to highlight key differences between the new and 2008 qualifications.

## Teaching and learning

- topic packs for every topic
- support for embedding geographical skills and fieldwork into teaching
- training on fieldwork and geographical skills



# Our qualification support

## Preparing for exams

- additional specimen papers to support formative assessments and mock exams
- marked exemplars of student work in external assessments and the A level coursework, with examiner commentaries
- training on how to use our mark schemes and mark our specimen papers
- free standardisation events and trial marking materials for the new A level coursework



# Fieldwork for all

- Support with embedding high quality fieldwork
- Exemplars
- Sharing good practice
- Networking
- Fieldwork specialists to answer your questions



# *Thinking Geographically:* Maths and statistics

- Based on the proven approach of Pearson Maths
- Building confidence and fluency to master problem-solving and reasoning activities that model maths and statistical concepts in a geographical context
- Supporting students in strengthening, checking and testing their skills.
- Ensuring terminology and approach is consistent with Maths, so students can make links between subjects.



# ***Thinking Geographically:*** **literacy**



- Based on the proven approach of Pearson English: *Grammar for Writing*
- Working with Exeter University, our approach will help teachers support literacy in geography
- Exeter University will analyse student exam scripts and provide guidance on common literacy issues at all ability levels
- This evidence will underpin our literacy approach throughout so that students can be confident in their extended writing and make progress.



# Published resources

- We are committed to helping teachers deliver our Edexcel qualifications and students to achieve their full potential.
- To do this, we aim for our qualifications to be supported by a wide range of high-quality resources, produced by a range of publishers, including ourselves.
- However, it is not necessary to purchase endorsed resources to deliver our qualifications.



# Endorsed resources\*

We are working with a range of publishers who are looking towards getting their resources endorsed:

- **Hodder:** We are supporting the 2016 specification with new editions of our bestselling AS/A level Year 1 and A level Year 2 books.
- **OUP:** Oxford is publishing for the 2016 Edexcel AS and A Level specs. More info: [www.oxfordsecondary.co.uk/edexcelalevelgeog16](http://www.oxfordsecondary.co.uk/edexcelalevelgeog16)
- **Pearson:** Resources offering comprehensive support for the new Edexcel A level, bringing geography to life for you and your students
- **Pumpkin Interactive:** With amazing footage shot around the world, Pumpkin's DVDs deliver inspirational video case studies across a range of geographical themes and issues. [www.pumpkin-interactive.co.uk](http://www.pumpkin-interactive.co.uk)

\*These resources have not yet been endorsed. This information is correct as of 9th April 2015, but may be subject to change



# Contact details

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## Next steps

- Please complete your evaluation form for today's event – in your pack
- Sign up to Jon Wolton's updates: email [teachinggeography@pearson.com](mailto:teachinggeography@pearson.com)
- Visit the website to download further copies of the draft specification and support materials: [www.edexcel.com/gcsegeography16](http://www.edexcel.com/gcsegeography16)
- Look out for information about our Getting Ready to Teach events