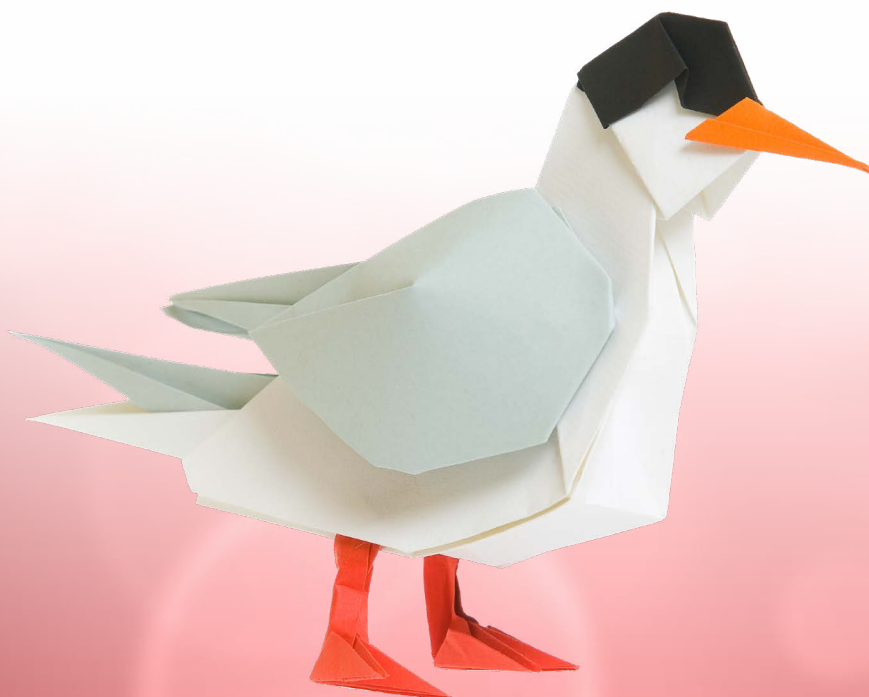


AQA A level Geography (2016)

Mapping Guide

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At a glance comparison of the **AQA** and **Edexcel** specifications

AQA	Edexcel
<p>Paper 1: Physical Geography Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water and carbon cycles • Hot desert systems and landscapes or Coastal systems and landscapes or Glacial systems and landscapes • Hazards or Ecosystems under stress 	<p>Paper 1: Physical Geography Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tectonic Processes and Hazards • Glaciated Landscapes and Change or Coastal Landscapes and Change • Water Cycle and Water Insecurity and Carbon Cycle and Energy Security
<p>Assessment overview Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes / 120 marks / 40 % of A-level</p>	<p>Assessment overview Written exam: 2 hours 15 minutes / 105 marks / 30% of the qualification</p>
<p>Paper 2: Human Geography Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global systems and global governance • Changing places • Contemporary urban environments or Population and the environment or Resource security 	<p>Paper 2: Human Geography Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Globalisation and Superpowers • Regenerating Places or Diverse Places • Health, Human Rights and Intervention or Migration, Identity and Sovereignty
<p>Assessment overview Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes / 120 marks / 40 % of A-level</p>	<p>Assessment overview Written exam: 2 hours 15 minutes / 105 marks / 30% of the qualification</p>
<p>Paper 3: Independent Investigation Content</p> <p>Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field.</p>	<p>Paper 3: Synoptic Investigation Content</p> <p>The synoptic investigation will be based on a geographical issue within a place-based context that is rooted in two or more of the compulsory content areas.</p>
<p>Assessment overview 60 marks / 20% of A-level / marked by teachers / moderated by AQA</p>	<p>Assessment overview Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes / 20% of A level / 70 marks</p>
	<p>Paper 4: Independent Investigation Content</p> <p>Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field.</p> <p>Assessment overview 70 marks / 20% of A-level / marked by teachers / moderated by Pearson Edexcel</p>

Key benefits of Edexcel specifications

- A clear specification with signposted integrated skills, case studies and located examples.
- Command words that are used consistently to assess particular skills, making it clear the type of response that is required.
- Command word definitions that will stay the same for the lifetime of the qualifications and, together with question styles, will enable students to focus on 'thinking geographically'.
- More support than ever before including detailed schemes of work and topic booklets for every topic, additional specimen papers, examiner marked student exemplars and much more.
- Expert support every step of the way from our Geography Subject Advisor, Jon Wolton. **Sign up** now to receive Jon's updates.

Support for teaching Edexcel AS and A level Geography

Please visit the Pearson qualifications [website](#) where you can download over 50 support materials written specifically for the Edexcel AS and A level Geography specifications.

- Specimen Papers
- Examiner marked student exemplars including Paper 3: Synoptic Investigation and Paper 4: Independent Investigation
- Detailed topic booklets and editable schemes of work for every topic
- Fieldwork planner and guide
- Unbeatable support for the new A level Independent Investigation (NEA) through our Coursework Advisory Service
- AS and A level Geography Maths for Geographers guide

Find out more about the [published resources](#) available to support teaching Edexcel AS and A level Geography.



Detailed mapping guide - **What's the same?**

AQA A level Geography (2016) subject content	Coverage in the Edexcel A level Geography (2016) specification
<p>3.1.1 Water and Carbon Cycles</p> <p>3.1.1.1 Water and carbon cycles as natural systems</p> <p>3.1.1.2 The water cycle Global distribution and size of major stores of water – lithosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere and atmosphere.</p> <p>Processes driving change in the magnitude of these stores over time and space.</p> <p>Drainage basins as open systems – inputs and outputs.</p> <p>Runoff variation and the flood hydrograph.</p> <p>Changes in the water cycle over time.</p>	<p>Topic 5: The water cycle and water insecurity</p> <p>Enquiry question 1, Key idea 5.1 and Topic 6: The carbon cycle and energy security, Enquiry question 1, Key idea 6.1</p> <p>This is covered in Enquiry question 1 key ideas 5.1a, 5.1b, and 5.1c</p> <p>This subject content is covered in 5.2a, b, c</p> <p>Enquiry question 1, key idea 5.3 including storm hydrographs, human and physical influences as well as land use change. Added to this Edexcel cover geological causes and changes such as soils in more detail.</p> <p>Enquiry Question 2 covers the factors that influence the hydrological system over the short and long term including storm events, droughts, flooding and also includes the impact that this has on ecosystems and the environment. Edexcel links this to climate change and the importance of the hydrological cycle.</p> <p>Extended Content The Edexcel specification includes contemporary geographical issues and this helps students to put physical systems and processes into context. Topic 5 Enquiry Question 3 includes the global issue of water insecurity, the consequences and risks associated and the different approaches to managing water supply.</p>
<p>3.1.1.3 The carbon cycle</p> <p>Global distribution, and size of major stores of carbon.</p>	<p>Topic 6 The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security</p> <p>The carbon stores are covered in Enquiry Question 1 key ideas 6.1 and 6.2.</p>

<p>Factors driving change in the magnitude of these stores over time. Changes in the carbon cycle over time.</p> <p>3.1.1.4 Water, carbon, climate and life on Earth</p>	<p>This area is covered widely in Enquiry Question 1 key idea 6.3 as well as Enquiry Question 3.</p> <p>Where the two systems link and the impacts that they can have on climate are covered comprehensively in Topic 6, Enquiry Question 3 key ideas 6.7 to 6.9.</p> <p>Extended Content</p> <p>The Edexcel specification also includes a study of the global issue of energy security, which was a very popular topic in the legacy A2 specification. Energy security has much relevance both in the past (1973 OPEC price hike) and today (Ukraine, Biofuels and fracking). This content provides the scope for making synoptic links throughout the course – see Topics 8A and 8B as well as Topic 5 Globalisation. Much of this content is covered by AQA in 3.2.5 Resource security.</p>
<p>3.1.3 Coastal systems and landscapes</p>	<p>Topic 2B Coastal landscapes and change</p>
<p>3.1.3.1 Coasts as natural systems</p> <p>3.1.3.2 Systems and processes</p> <p>3.1.3.4 Coastal management</p>	<p>Coasts as natural systems is covered extensively in Enquiry Question 1, key ideas 2B.1 to 2B.3.</p> <p>The processes of landscape development are covered comprehensively in Enquiry Questions 2 and 3.</p> <p>This area is covered in Enquiry Question 4 key ideas 2B.10 to 2B.12.</p>
<p>3.1.4 Glacial systems and landscapes</p>	<p>Topic 2A Glacial landscapes and change</p>
<p>3.1.4.1 Glaciers as natural systems</p> <p>3.1.4.2 The nature and distribution of cold environments</p> <p>3.1.4.3 Systems and processes</p> <p>3.1.4.4 Glaciated landscape development</p> <p>3.1.4.5 Human impacts on cold environments</p>	<p>Enquiry Question 2 key ideas 2A.4 to 2A.6</p> <p>Enquiry Question 1 key ideas 2A.1 to 2A.2</p> <p>Enquiry Questions 2 and 3.</p> <p>Enquiry Question 3 key ideas 2A.7 to 2A.9. Periglaciation is covered in Enquiry Question 1 key idea 2A.3. Some of this content is also covered within key ideas 2A.1 and 2A.2.</p> <p>At times AQA cover landforms not required by Edexcel such as blockfields though these are few and are not excluded.</p> <p>Enquiry Question 4 covers human impacts and management.</p>

3.1.5 Hazards	Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards
<p>3.1.5.1 The concept of hazard in a geographical context</p> <p>3.1.5.2 Plate tectonics</p> <p>3.1.5.3 Volcanic hazards</p> <p>3.1.5.4 Seismic hazards</p> <p>3.1.5.5 Storm hazards</p> <p>3.1.5.6 Fires in nature</p>	<p>This area is covered throughout the topic but are mainly covered through Enquiry Questions 2 and 3, key idea 1.4a (Definitions of a natural hazard/disaster) 1.4b (Pressure and Release (PAR) model) 1.8 (This covered the management cycle and Parks Model).</p> <p>Enquiry Question 1, key ideas 1.1 and 1.2.</p> <p>Enquiry Question 1, key idea 1.3</p> <p>How these develop into disasters are the topics within Enquiry Question 2 and management of hazards is covered in Enquiry Question 3</p> <p>These are not covered directly in Edexcel however they have some relevance within Key Idea 1.7c and the concept of multiple hazard zones as well as secondary hazards of tectonics where necessary.</p> <p>These areas are covered within both Area of study 2: Dynamic Places and Area of study 4: Global Development and Connections. A more specific list is highlighted beneath each section heading below. The AQA and Edexcel specifications cover the DfE core theme Global Systems and Global Governance in ways but there is crossover between the topics.</p>
3.1.1 Global systems and global governance	Topic 3: Globalisation
<p>3.2.1.1 Globalisation</p> <p>3.2.1.2 Global systems</p> <p>3.2.1.3 International trade and access to markets</p>	<p>Enquiry Question 1, key ideas 3.1 and 3.2 cover the causes of the acceleration of globalisation.</p> <p>The issues of interdependence are covered in Topic 3: Globalisation, Enquiry Questions 2 and 3. These are also found in Topic 8A Health, Human Rights and Intervention and Topic 8B Migration, Identity and Sovereignty where in key ideas 8B.1 and 8B.6 students will learn about the deregulation of markets.</p> <p>The Role of the TNC is covered in Enquiry Question 1, key idea 3.3. The creation of 'winners and losers' within globalisation are covered in Enquiry Question 2. Trading relationships and culture are covered within key idea 3.2.</p>

<p>3.2.1.4 Global governance</p> <p>3.2.1.5 The 'global commons'</p> <p>3.2.1.5.1 Antarctica as a global common</p> <p>3.2.1.6 Globalisation critique</p>	<p>The impacts of globalisation and governance are considered in both Enquiry Question 2 and 3.</p> <p>The Edexcel specification offers two optional topics which both cover the global governance content - Topic 8A Health, Human Rights and Intervention and Topic 8B Migration, Identity and Sovereignty. Specifically, key idea 8B.8 about IGOs, their establishment and global control of financial flows. In Topic 3 Globalisation students will learn about the interactions of global governance and these ideas are revisited in both Topics 8A and 8B. This area is also touched upon during Topic 7 Superpowers in Enquiry Question 2: What are the impacts of superpowers on the global economy, political systems and the physical environment? Key ideas 7.4A – 7.6. In addition to this, Topic 8B Enquiry question 2: How are nation states defined and how have they evolved in a globalising world? Interactions between the local, regional, national, international and global scales are fundamental to understanding global governance.</p> <p>The 'global commons' aspect of the AQA course is covered within several topic areas. This topic is touched upon in Topic 2A Glacial landscapes and change, Enquiry Question 4, key idea 2A.12, as well as being discussed to a lesser extent in Topic 6 The carbon cycle and energy security, key idea 6.9.</p> <p>This is covered at the end of Topic 2A in Enquiry Question 4 key idea 2A.12.</p> <p>Topic 3 Globalisation and both Topics 8A Health, Human Rights and Intervention and 8B Migration, Identity and Sovereignty.</p>
<p>3.2.2 Changing places</p>	<p>Topic 4A Regenerating Places or Topic 4B Diverse Places</p>
<p>3.2.2.1 The nature and importance of places</p> <p>3.2.2.2.1 Relationships and connections</p>	<p>Both topics have links to Changing Places in the AQA specification, particularly Diverse Places, Enquiry Question 1 and Regenerating Places, Enquiry Questions 1 and 2, which cover changing use of place, connections and engagement in place.</p> <p>Cultural characteristics and demographics are extensively covered in Diverse Places, key ideas 4B1 to 4B.3. Economic change and social inequalities are covered extensively in key idea 4B.4 and key ideas 4B.10 to 4B.12, they are also discussed within Regenerating Places, in key ideas 4A.2 and 4A.3.</p> <p>The idea of cultural tensions and demographic issues are looked at in topic 4B.7 to 4B.9 and the management of these issues is comprehensively covered in 4B.10 to 4B.12.</p>

3.2.2.2.2 Meaning and representation	This area again crosses over into both Regenerating Places and Diverse Places. Key ideas 4A.4, 4A.5, and 4A.9 cover 'rebranding'. The ideas within 'Meaning and representation' can also be found in key ideas 4B.4, 4B.6 and 4B.12.
3.2.3 Contemporary urban environments	Topic 4A: Regenerating Places covers most of this in detail specifically the reasons why places developed, their subsequent development and decline and what is now being done about them through regeneration programmes and 'Rebranding'. Again, both Topic 4A and 4B have some familiar themes covered in both AQA 3.2.2 Changing places and 3.2.3 Contemporary urban environments.
3.2.3.2 Urban forms	The first part of this is not covered specifically in the Edexcel specification however elements of new urban landscapes can be drawn from 4A.2 and 4A.3.
3.2.3.3 Social and economic issues associated with urbanisation	This is covered in Regenerating Places Enquiry Question 2, 3 and 4.
3.2.3.4 Urban climate	The issues discussed here from AQA are not directly linked to the Edexcel specification but are parts link to Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity, Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security, Topic 4A Regenerating Places, Topic 3: Globalisation and Topic 8A: Health, Human Rights and Intervention.
3.2.3.5 Urban drainage	
3.2.3.6 Urban waste and its disposal	
3.2.3.7 Other contemporary urban environmental issues	These parts of the AQA specification are covered in Topic 4A: Regenerating Places specifically key ideas 4A.7 to 4A.12.
3.2.3.8 Sustainable urban development	
3.2.4 Population and the environment	This optional area for AQA isn't directly covered by Edexcel however indirectly can be found in many of our topics both human and physical Geography.
3.2.5 Resource security	Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity , Enquiry Question 3 which covers how water insecurity occurs and why it is a global issue.
	Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security , Enquiry Question 2 which covers the consequences for people and the environment of our increasing demand for energy.
3.2.5.5 Mineral security	This area is not covered within the specification however areas associated with the demand and use of minerals associated with physical geography such as tectonics, glaciation and sustainability have limited coverage of this area.

Detailed mapping guide – What's new?

- **Topic 8A Health, Human Rights and Intervention**
- **Topic 8B Migration, Identity and Sovereignty**
- **Elements of these may well be covered within AQA however Edexcel has these as optional topics one of which has to be studied.**

AQA students undertake a Globalisation Critique (3.2.1.6). This considers the impacts, both positive and negative on world development touching on inequalities, injustice and environmental issues. The contemporary, issues-based approach of the Edexcel specification means that these themes are integrated throughout the specification. The consideration of injustice, wealth and human rights issues are explored in several units. Access and equality are touched upon in Topic 4A Regenerating Places, Topic 4B Diverse places as well as Topic 3 Globalisation, Topic 5 The water cycle and water insecurity, Topic 3 Tectonic hazards and Topic 8A Health, Human rights and migration.

