

At a glance comparison of the **OCR** and **Edexcel (2016)** **A level Geography** specifications



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OCR	Edexcel
<p>Paper 1: Physical systems</p> <p>Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape systems • Earth's life support systems • Geographical skills 	<p>Paper 1: Physical geography</p> <p>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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes • 66 marks • 22% of the qualification 	<p>Assessment overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 2 hours 15 minutes • 105 marks • 30% of the qualification
<p>Paper 2: Human interactions</p> <p>Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing spaces; making places • Global connections • Geographical skills 	<p>Paper 2: Human geography</p> <p>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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes • 66 marks • 22% of the qualification 	<p>Assessment overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 2 hours 15 minutes • 105 marks • 30% of the qualification
<p>Paper 3: Geographical debates</p> <p>Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study two of the following: • Disease dilemmas • Exploring oceans • Future food • Hazardous earth • Geographical skills 	<p>Paper 3: Synoptic investigation</p> <p>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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes • 108 marks • 36% of the qualification 	<p>Assessment overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes • 70 marks • 20% of the qualification
<p>Paper 4: Non-examination Assessment/Independent investigation</p> <p>Content</p> <p>Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field.</p>	<p>Paper 4: Non-examination Assessment/Independent investigation</p> <p>Content</p> <p>Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field.</p>
<p>Assessment overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3000-4000 word report • 60 marks • 20% of A Level • marked by teachers • moderated by OCR 	<p>Assessment overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,000 – 4,000 words • 70 marks • 20 % of A-level • marked by teachers • moderated by Pearson Edexcel

Key similarities

- A lot of the content is organised in a similar way, Paper 1 focuses on the physical geography content and Paper 2 focuses on human geography content.
- In both specifications Paper 3 explores contemporary geographical issues with synoptic questions.
- Both specifications offer a choice of coastal landscapes and glaciated landscapes.
- Both specifications include a study of regenerating places, global migration and human rights.
- Geographical skills are integrated throughout all three exam papers.

What is new?

- In the Edexcel specification the water and carbon cycle content is integrated with the global issues of water insecurity and energy security.
- The synoptic investigation in Paper 3 will always be based on three synoptic themes drawn from the compulsory content.
- The Edexcel specification offers a choice of regenerating places or diverse places.

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.

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.

- Getting started guide and course planner
- Detailed topic booklets and editable schemes of work for every topic
- Specimen papers
- Examiner marked student exemplars
- Coursework advisory service
- Fieldwork planner and guide
- Independent Investigation support and training materials

