

Top 5 things to know about our new Edexcel AS/A level Geography courses

Our newly accredited qualifications have been shaped to help all students become skilled and successful geographers. You can be confident in teaching our courses because:

1. We've built upon the contemporary, issues-based approach teachers and students love.

Geography matters. That's why our qualifications continue to focus on fundamental processes and environments, but also reflect the world around us.

We're the only Awarding Body to **integrate compulsory content and popular, familiar themes together** – such as linking the water and carbon cycles to water insecurity and energy security – to ensure our courses are relevant and engaging.

This way, students can build on what they've learned at GCSE and what they see in the world today, and gain the knowledge, skills and understanding vital to **success** at AS/A level and beyond.

2. We've developed a manageable and meaningful approach to fieldwork.

To ensure you and your students can focus on **exploring geography in practice**, we've taken the guesswork out of fieldwork.

As part of **supporting success in fieldwork**, we're working with the Field Studies Council to create a whole host of **free support and guidance** on best practice. We're also the Awarding Body to go that step further and give **practical examples** of how to integrate teaching the required geographical and fieldwork skills into your lessons.

At **AS**, we've **prescribed fieldwork environments** in the specification, so students can confidently apply what they know to exam questions on unfamiliar fieldwork contexts. When it comes to the **A level Independent Investigation**, students can further explore a part of the course that fascinates them.

3. We've created exams that give every student the chance to succeed.

Alongside a **straightforward assessment structure**, our defined set of **command words** in exams are used consistently to assess particular skills and link to the same mark tariffs to make it clear what students are being asked to do. With exam questions that **ramp in demand** throughout each section, our papers are **accessible** and encourage students to **engage** with every element of assessment.



4. We've designed straightforward specifications you can shape to suit you and your students.

Our specifications are designed for you to make your own. To support **shared teaching** and **co-teaching**, there's identical content across AS and the first year of A level, areas of physical and human geography mirror each other across the first two exam papers. Our synoptic themes also help students connect common concepts between topics.

Whichever teaching format you follow, **detailed specification content** is there to give you confidence in how much depth to cover, and **specific examples of place contexts** demonstrate the case studies you can use to bring the subject to life. There's also the **freedom to choose subtopics**, so you can focus on the content you know will best engage and suit your students.

5. We've focused on the skills at the heart of being a good geographer.

To help you create coherent courses and support your students in becoming confident geographers, we've taken the **unique approach** of signposting precisely how and where quantitative and qualitative skills can be integrated into lessons. That way, you can be confident your students will develop and apply key skills to what they're learning, in readiness for exams, fieldwork and further study.

What's more, our courses are designed to enable **synopticity** and encourage your students to see 'the bigger picture' and confidently link geographical processes, themes, ideas and concepts together across topics.

And one more thing...

In the run-up to first teaching and beyond, we're here to support you every step of the way with free support materials and events. Jon Wolton, your Subject Advisor is also on hand to answer any questions you have about the courses, as well as let you know the latest news. Simply get in touch with Jon at TeachingGeography@pearson.com.

