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# AQA 2008 AS and A level Geography Specification Mapping Guide

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# Introduction

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This document is designed to help you compare the existing 2008 AQA AS and A2 Geography specification with the new 2016 Edexcel AS and A level Geography specifications.

The document gives a detailed breakdown of where there is familiar content in the new Edexcel specifications, where material that you currently teach is not present in the new specifications and where the new specifications incorporate material that is new to you.

The **2016 Edexcel AS level Geography specification** comprises two areas of study, both of which can be co-taught with A level Geography:

1. Dynamic Landscapes
2. Dynamic Places.

The **2016 Edexcel A level Geography specification** comprises of four areas of study:

1. Dynamic Landscapes (can be co-taught with AS)
2. Dynamic Places (can be co-taught with AS)
3. Physical Systems and Sustainability
4. Human Systems and Geopolitics.

Dynamic Landscapes	Dynamic Places
<p><b>Topic 1:</b> Tectonic Processes and Hazards</p> <p><b>Topic 2:</b> Landscape Systems, Processes and Change – a choice of <b>either</b> 2A Glaciated Landscapes and Change <b>or</b> 2B Coastal Landscapes and Change</p>	<p><b>Topic 3:</b> Globalisation</p> <p><b>Topic 4:</b> Shaping Places – a choice of <b>either</b> 4A Regenerating Places <b>or</b> 4B Diverse Places</p>
Physical Systems and Sustainability	Human Systems and Geopolitics
<p><b>Topic 5:</b> The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity</p> <p><b>Topic 6:</b> The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security</p>	<p><b>Topic 7:</b> Superpowers</p> <p><b>Topic 8:</b> Global Development and Connections – a choice of <b>either</b> 8A Health, Human Rights and Intervention <b>or</b> 8B Migration, Identity and Sovereignty</p>

### **Our free support includes:**

- a dedicated Geography Adviser, Jon Wolton
- additional AS and A level Geography specimen papers
- student exemplars with assessment commentary
- mock marking training
- Getting Started Guide and course planners for AS and A level Geography
- schemes of work and topic packs for every topic
- support with embedding high quality fieldwork into teaching
- Thinking Geographically: Maths and statistics – based on the proven approach of Pearson Maths
- Thinking Geographically: Literacy – based on the proven approach of Pearson English: Grammar for Writing
- Getting Ready to Teach training events.

## Specification map: 2008 AQA AS and A level Geography

2008 AQA specification		2016 Pearson Edexcel specification
Unit and topic	Detailed content	
<b>Unit 1:</b> <b>Physical and Human Geography</b> Rivers, Floods and Management	Drainage basin hydrological cycle Factors affecting river discharge Long / valley profiles, channel characteristics Fluvial landforms Flooding – cases, impacts and management	Limited coverage of physical processes of erosion, transportation, deposition; landforms etc. <b>Area of study 3, Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity</b> <b>5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.6</b> – processes operating within the hydrological cycle <b>5.5</b> – causes and impacts of flooding
<b>Unit 1:</b> <b>Physical and Human Geography</b> Cold Environments	Distribution of cold environments	<b>Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2A: Glaciated Landscapes and Change Key idea</b> <b>2A.2</b> – distribution of high latitude and high altitude cold environments
	Glaciers as systems and processes of ice movement	<b>Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2A: Glaciated Landscapes and Change</b> <b>2A.4, 2A.5</b> – processes operating within glacier systems including importance of mass balance in understanding glacial dynamics, processes affecting glacial movement
	Glacial processes and landscape development – erosional and depositional landforms, fluvioglacial and periglacial processes	<b>Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2A: Glaciated Landscapes and Change</b> <b>2A.3</b> – periglacial processes produce distinctive landscapes <b>2A.6</b> – erosional and depositional landforms <b>2A.7, 2A.8, 2A.9</b> – the formation of glaciated landscapes, including erosion, deposition and fluvioglacial processes and landforms
	Exploitation and development in tundra areas and Southern Ocean	<b>Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2A: Glaciated Landscapes and Change</b> <b>2A.10, 2A.11, 2A.12</b> – value, use, threats and management of glaciated landscapes
<b>Unit 1:</b> <b>Physical and Human Geography</b> Coastal Environments	The coastal system and coastal processes	<b>Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2B: Coastal Landscapes and Change</b> <b>2B.1, 2B.2, 2B.3</b> – why coastal landscapes are different and the processes that cause these differences <b>2B.4, 2B.5</b> – wave types, sediment cell concept
	Landforms of erosion and deposition	<b>Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2B: Coastal Landscapes and Change</b>

		<b>2B.4, 2B.5, 2B.6</b> – formation of coastal landforms due to erosion, deposition and sub-aerial processes
	Causes and consequences of coastal erosion and flooding	<b>Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2B: Coastal Landscapes and Change</b> <b>2B.7, 2B.8, 2B.9, 2B.10</b> – sea level change on different timescales, causes and impacts of rapid coastal retreat and coastal flooding
	Coastal protection – costs and benefits of hard and soft engineering	<b>Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2B: Coastal Landscapes and Change</b> <b>2B.11</b> – hard and soft engineering approaches <b>2B.12</b> – holistic and sustainable coastal management strategies and policies
<b>Unit 1</b> <b>Physical and Human Geography</b> Hot Desert Environments and their Margins	Location and characteristics of hot deserts and causes of aridity Geomorphological processes and landforms Causes and impacts of desertification, and management of desert environments	Limited coverage of desert environments. <b>Area of study 3, Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity</b> <b>5.4</b> – causes and impacts of drought <b>5.7, 5.8, 5.9</b> – causes and consequences of water insecurity, contrasting strategies to manage water supplies
<b>Unit 1</b> <b>Physical and Human Geography</b> Population Change	Population indicators in countries at different stages of development and the demographic transition model	Limited coverage of population indicators and the demographic transition model. <b>Area of study 4, Topic 8, Option 8A: Health, Human Rights and Intervention</b> <b>8A.2, 8A.3</b> – variations in health and life expectancy in countries at different stages of development
	Social, economic and political implication of changes in population structure, including the impact of migration Attempts to manage population change	<b>Area of study 2, Topic 3: Globalisation</b> <b>3.5, 3.6</b> – causes and consequences of rural–urban migration and international migration. <b>Area of study 2, Topic 4, Option 4B: Diverse Places</b> <b>4B.1, 4B.2, 4B.3</b> – changes in UK population structure over time and space. Focus on comparison between two contrasting places <b>4B.7, 4B.8</b> – varying impacts of migration across the UK <b>4B.11, 4B.12</b> – the criteria of urban and rural stakeholders <b>Area of study 4, Topic 8, Option 8B: Migration, Identity and Sovereignty</b> <b>8B.3</b> – varying impacts of international migration

		Limited coverage of attempts to manage population change.
	Impact of natural population change and migration on the character of rural and urban areas – two contrasting settlement case studies	<p><b>Area of study 2, Topic 4, Option 4A: Regenerating Places</b></p> <p><b>4A.2</b> – places change demographic characteristics over time, and the measurements of such changes</p> <p><b>4A.3</b> a study of how past and present connections have influence two contrasting places</p> <p><b>Area of study 2, Topic 4, Option 4B: Diverse Places</b></p> <p><b>4B.1, 4B.2, 4B.3</b> – changes in UK population structure over time and space, with a focus on a comparison between two contrasting places</p>
<p><b>Unit 1</b></p> <p><b>Physical and Human Geography</b></p> <p>Food Supply Issues</p>	<p>Global patterns of food supply, consumption and trade</p> <p>Managing food supply and changes in demand</p> <p>Role of TNCs in food production</p> <p>Sustainable food production</p>	<p>Limited coverage of food supply issues.</p> <p><b>Area of study 2, Topic 3: Globalisation</b></p> <p><b>3.9</b> – ethical and environmental concerns have led to increased localism and awareness of the impacts of the consumption</p>
<p><b>Unit 1</b></p> <p><b>Physical and Human Geography</b></p> <p>Energy Issues</p>	<p>Types of energy and energy mix</p> <p>Global patterns of energy supply, consumption and trade</p>	<p><b>Area of study 3, Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security</b></p> <p><b>6.4, 6.5</b> – energy mix and types of energy; supply, consumption, and trade of energy; energy pathways</p>
	Geopolitics of energy	<p><b>Area of study 3, Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security</b></p> <p><b>6.4, 6.5</b> – energy players, energy pathways and their disruption, development of unconventional fossil fuels</p>
	Environmental impact of energy production	<p><b>Area of study 3, Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security</b></p> <p><b>6.5</b> – impacts of the development of unconventional fossil fuels</p>
	Sustainable energy supply and consumption – renewables and energy conservation	<p><b>Area of study 3, Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security</b></p> <p><b>6.6</b> – the costs and benefits of alternatives to fossil fuels</p>

<p><b>Unit 1</b> <b>Physical and Human Geography</b> Health Issues</p>	<p>Global patterns of health</p> <p>Study of an infectious disease and a non-communicable disease</p> <p>Food and health</p> <p>Contrasting health care approaches</p> <p>Health and globalisation</p> <p>Regional variations in health and morbidity in UK</p>	<p>Fairly limited coverage.</p> <p><b>Area of study 4, Topic 8, Option 8A Health, Human Rights and Intervention</b></p> <p><b>8A.1, 8A.2</b> – links between health and economic development, factors affecting variations in human health both within and between countries</p> <p><b>8A.8, 8A.10, 8A.11</b> – the role of development aid in improving health</p> <p><b>Area of study 2, Topic 4, Option 4A: Regenerating Places</b></p> <p><b>4A.4, 4A.6, 4A.10</b> – economic and social inequalities linked to the need for regeneration – a local study of an urban and rural place in the UK</p> <p><b>Area of study 2, Topic 4, Option 4B: Diverse Places</b></p> <p><b>4B.6, 4B.10</b> – a local study of an urban and rural place in the UK with a focus on changing demographic and cultural characteristics (health and life expectancy)</p>
<p><b>Unit 2</b> <b>Geographical Skills</b></p>	<p>The Department for Education (DfE) has made it compulsory for <b>all</b> Geography AS students to complete a minimum of <b>two</b> days of fieldwork and for A level students to complete a minimum of <b>four</b> days of fieldwork. Fieldwork must be carried out in relation to processes in physical and human geography.</p> <p>Geographical and fieldwork skills will be assessed through exam questions as part of the AS qualification.</p> <p>Geographical skills will be assessed through exam questions in the A level qualification and fieldwork will be assessed through coursework (an Independent Investigation worth 20%).</p> <p>The use and application of a variety of geographical skills is embedded throughout this specification. There is guidance for integrating geographical skills at the end of each topic to signpost where and how to embed fieldwork and skills within teaching. The aim is to ensure that students are able to select, use and evaluate a range of quantitative and qualitative skills and approaches.</p> <p>Full details of the required geographical and fieldwork skills are provided in Appendix 1: Geographical skills, and Appendix 2: Fieldwork skills.</p>	
<p><b>Unit 3</b> <b>Contemporary Geographical Issues</b> <i>Physical Options</i></p>	<p>Plate movement</p>	<p><b>Area of study 1, Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards</b></p> <p><b>1.1, 1.2, 1.5</b> – distribution and causes of hazards</p>
	<p>Vulcanicity</p>	<p>No coverage of intrusive activity in 2016 specification.</p>



Option 1: Plate Tectonics and Associated Hazards		<p><b>Area of study 1, Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards</b></p> <p><b>1.2</b> – physical processes impact on magnitude and type of volcanic eruption</p> <p><b>1.3</b> – nature and type of volcanic hazards</p> <p><b>1.4, 1.5, 1.6</b> – factors affecting varying impacts of hazards</p> <p><b>1.8, 1.9</b> – varying strategies to manage hazard events</p>
	Seismicity	<p><b>Area of study 1, Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards</b></p> <p><b>1.2</b> – physical processes impact on earthquake magnitude and focal depth</p> <p><b>1.3</b> – nature and type of seismic hazards</p> <p><b>1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7</b> – factors affecting varying impacts of hazards</p> <p><b>1.8, 1.9</b> – varying strategies to manage hazard events</p>
<p><b>Unit 3 Contemporary Geographical Issues</b></p> <p><i>Physical Options</i></p> <p>Option 2: Weather and Climate and Associated Hazards</p>	Major climate controls	Limited coverage.
	<p>The climate of the British Isles</p> <p>The climate of one tropical region</p> <p>Storm events</p>	<p><b>Area of study 3, Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity</b></p> <p><b>5.5</b>, – meteorological causes of floods and their impacts</p>
	Climate on a local scale: urban climates	Limited coverage.
	Global climate change	<p><b>Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2A: Glaciated Landscapes and Change</b></p> <p><b>2A.1</b> – the causes of climate change vary on different timescales</p> <p><b>Area of study 3, Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security</b></p> <p><b>6.9</b> – impacts of anthropogenic climate change, causes, impacts and responses to the threat of future climate change</p>
<p><b>Unit 3 Contemporary Geographical Issues</b></p> <p><i>Physical Options</i></p> <p>Option 3: Ecosystems: Change and Challenge</p>	<p>Nature of ecosystems</p> <p>Ecosystems in the British Isles over time</p> <p>The biome of one tropical region</p> <p>Ecosystem issues on a local scale: impact of human activity</p>	<p>Limited coverage.</p> <p><b>Area of study 3, Topic 6: Carbon cycle and energy security</b></p> <p><b>6.7</b> – impacts of deforestation, and the link between level of development and conservation</p> <p><b>6.9</b> – impact of climate and climate change on biome distribution</p> <p><b>Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2A: Glaciated Landscapes and Change</b></p>

	Ecosystem issues on a global scale	<b>2A.11, 2A.12</b> – threats to and management of fragile glaciated landscapes
<b>Unit 3 Contemporary Geographical Issues</b> <i>Human Options</i> Option 4: World Cities	Contemporary urbanisation processes	<b>Area of study 2, Topic 3: Globalisation</b> <b>3.5</b> – rural–urban migration leading to growth of megacities, and the associated social and environmental challenges
	Urban decline and regeneration within urban areas Retailing and other services	<b>Area of study 1, Topic 3: Globalisation</b> <b>3.4</b> – deindustrialised regions face social and environmental problems <b>Area of study 2, Topic 4, Option 4A: Regenerating Places</b> <b>4A.1, 4A.2 and 4A.3, 4A.4, 4A.6</b> – restructuring of the UK economy leading to decline in some urban areas; impact of deindustrialisation, some areas more in need of regeneration than others, – a study of the need for regeneration in a local place <b>4A.7, 4A.8, 4A.9</b> – regeneration strategies and management <b>4A.10, 4A.11, 4A.12</b> – evaluation of success of regeneration
	Contemporary sustainability issues in urban areas	<b>Area of study 2, Topic 3: Globalisation</b> <b>3.9</b> – ethical and environmental concerns have led to increased localism and awareness of the impacts of the consumption – role of recycling
<b>Unit 3 Contemporary Geographical Issues</b> <i>Human Options</i> Option 5: Development and Globalisation	Patterns and processes	<b>Area of study 2, Topic 3: Globalisation</b> <b>3.1, 3.2</b> – Factors causing globalisation to accelerate <b>3.3</b> – globalisation affects some places more than others <b>3.1, 3.7</b> – consequences of globalisation for economic development <b>Area of study 4, Topic 7: Superpowers</b> <b>7.3</b> – emerging powers – NICs and BRICs
	Countries at very low levels of development	<b>Area of study 4, Topic 8, Option 8A: Health, Human Rights and Intervention</b> <b>8A.1, 8A.2</b> – economic and social measures of development
	Global social and economic groupings	<b>Area of study 2, Topic 3: Globalisation</b> <b>3.2, 3.3</b> – role of TNCs and international organisations in globalisation <b>Area of study 4, Topic 8, Option 8B: Migration, Identity and Sovereignty</b> <b>8B.7, 8B.8, 8B.9</b> – groups, rights and global organisations
	Aspects of globalisation	<b>Area of study 2, Topic 3: Globalisation</b> <b>3.2, 3.3</b> – role of TNCs and international organisations in globalisation

		<p><b>3.4</b> – positive and negative impacts of globalisation.</p> <p><b>Area of study 4, Topic 7: Superpowers</b></p> <p><b>7.4</b> – role of TNCs in global economy and economic and cultural globalisation</p>
	Development issues within the world	<p><b>Area of study 4, Topic 8, Option 8A: Health, Human Rights and Intervention</b></p> <p><b>8A.3</b> – role of key players in defining development targets and policies</p> <p><b>8A.5</b> – differences in priorities and approaches</p> <p><b>8A.11</b> – strengths and weaknesses of development aid</p>
<p><b>Unit 3</b></p> <p><b>Contemporary Geographical Issues</b></p> <p><i>Human Options</i></p> <p>Option 6:</p> <p>Contemporary Conflicts and Challenges</p>	The geographical basis of conflict	<p><b>Area of study 4, Topic 8, Option 8B: Migration, Identity and Sovereignty</b></p> <p><b>8B.4</b> – varying nation states, contested borders and problems of sovereignty</p> <p><b>8B.5</b> – role of nationalism in the modern world and links to conflict</p> <p><b>8B.10–12</b> – national identity: challenges and consequences</p> <p><b>Area of study 4, Topic 8, Option 8A: Health, Human Rights and Intervention</b></p> <p><b>8A.7, 8A.10</b> – costs and benefits of geopolitical interventions</p> <p><b>8A.9, 8A.12</b> – costs and benefits of military interventions</p>
	Conflict over the use of a local resource (e.g. land, buildings, space)	<p><b>Area of study 4, Topic 7: Superpowers</b></p> <p><b>7.7</b> – tensions arise over acquisition of physical resources e.g. Arctic oil and gas, and geographical spheres of influence e.g. South and East China Seas</p> <p><b>Area of study 3, Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity</b></p> <p><b>5.8</b> – water conflict</p> <p><b>Area of study 2, Topic 4, Option 4A: Regenerating Place</b></p> <p><b>4A.8</b> – tensions develop regarding plans for regeneration</p> <p><b>Area of study 2, Topic 4, Option 4B: Diverse Places</b></p> <p><b>4B.9</b> – tensions over living space</p>
	The geographical impact of international conflicts	<p><b>Area of study 4, Topic 8, Option 8A: Health, Human Rights and Intervention</b></p> <p><b>8A.7, 8A.10</b> – costs and benefits of geopolitical interventions</p> <p><b>8A.9, 8A.12</b> – costs and benefits of military interventions</p>

		<p><b>Area of study 3, Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity</b></p> <p>5.8 – water conflict</p> <p><b>Area of study 4, Topic 7: Superpowers</b></p> <p>7.8 – tensions in the Middle East</p>
	The challenge of multicultural societies in the UK	<p><b>Area of study 2, Topic 4, Option 4B: Diverse Places</b></p> <p>4B.1, 4B.4 – population changes resulting from international migration and globalisation</p> <p>4B.5 – ethnic segregation</p> <p>4B.10 – management of cultural and demographic issues</p> <p><b>Area of study 4, Topic 8, Option 8B: Migration, Identity and Sovereignty</b></p> <p>8B.1, 8B.2 8B.3 – causes and consequences of international migration</p> <p><b>Area of study 2, Topic 3: Globalisation</b></p> <p>3.8 – social and political tensions caused by globalisation</p>
	Separatism within and /or across national boundaries	<p><b>Area of study 2, Topic 3: Globalisation</b></p> <p>3.8 – some groups seek to retain their cultural identity within countries</p> <p><b>Area of study 4, Topic 8, Option 8B: Migration, Identity and Sovereignty</b></p> <p>8B.11 – nationalist movements seeking to create smaller states</p>
	The challenge of global poverty	<p><b>Area of study 4, Topic 8, Option 8A: Health, Human Rights and Intervention</b></p> <p>8A.1–8A.3 – variations in human development</p> <p>8A.8, 8A.11 – role of aid in increasing development</p>
<p><b>Unit 4A</b></p> <p><b>Geography Fieldwork Investigation</b></p>	<p>The Department for Education (DfE) has made it compulsory for <b>all</b> Geography AS students to complete a minimum of <b>two</b> days of fieldwork and for A level students to complete a minimum of <b>four</b> days of fieldwork. Fieldwork must be carried out in relation to processes in physical and human geography.</p> <p>Geographical and fieldwork skills will be assessed through exam questions as part of the AS qualification.</p> <p>Geographical skills will be assessed through exam questions in the A level qualification and fieldwork will be assessed through coursework (an Independent Investigation worth 20%).</p> <p>For the coursework, students are required to undertake an independent investigation that involves (but which need not be restricted to) fieldwork, and produce a written report of 3,000–4,000 words.</p> <p>Full details of the required fieldwork skills are provided in Appendix 2: Fieldwork skills.</p>	

<p><b>Unit 4B</b> <b>Geographical Issue Evaluation</b></p>	<p>A synoptic assessment of geographical skills, knowledge and understanding (within a place-based context), will make up 20% of the A level qualification.</p> <p>There will no longer be a pre-release / advance information booklet.</p>
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### What's new?

**Area of study 2, Topic 4, Option 4B:** Diverse Places – causes, impacts and management of demographic and cultural change.

**Area of study 3, Topic 6:** The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security – processes affecting the carbon cycle and its role in maintaining planetary health, the links between the water and carbon cycles, and the role of feedback within and between them.

**Area of study 4, Topic 7:** Superpowers – the impact of superpowers on the global economy, global politics and the environment.

**Area of study 4, Topic 8, Option 8A:** Health, Human Rights and Intervention – focus on health and human rights as measures of development, as well as the role and success of geopolitical interventions in improving development and human rights.