
WJEC 2008 AS and A level Geography Specification Mapping Guide

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Introduction

This document is designed to help you compare the existing 2008 WJEC 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>Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards</p> <p>Topic 2: Landscape Systems, Processes and Change – a choice of either 2A Glaciated Landscapes and Change or 2B Coastal Landscapes and Change</p>	<p>Topic 3: Globalisation</p> <p>Topic 4: Shaping Places – a choice of either 4A Regenerating Places or 4B Diverse Places</p>
Physical Systems and Sustainability	Human Systems and Geopolitics
<p>Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity</p> <p>Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security</p>	<p>Topic 7: Superpowers</p> <p>Topic 8: Global Development and Connections – a choice of either 8A Health, Human Rights and Intervention or 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 WJEC AS and A level Geography

2008 WJEC specification			2016 Pearson Edexcel specification
Unit and Topic	Qu	Topic / detailed content	
Unit 1: Changing Physical Environments <i>Theme 1:</i> Investigating Climate Change	1.1	World's major climates and link to biomes	No coverage
	1.2	Temporal patterns of climate change	Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2A: Glaciated Landscapes and Change 2A.1 – the characteristics of climate change vary on different timescales
	1.3	Causes of climate change	Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2A: Glaciated Landscapes and Change 2A.1 – the causes of climate change vary on different timescales Area of study 3, Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity 5.6 – climate change resulting from ENSO cycles Area of study 3, Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Insecurity 6.3, 6.9 – human activities are changing the balance of carbon and leading to planetary warming
	1.4	Issues resulting from climate change	Area of study 3, Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity 5.1 – impacts of climate change on the hydrological cycle Area of study 3, Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security 6.7, 6.8, 6.9 – consequences of climate change
	1.5 1.6	Pros and cons of strategies to address climate change	Area of study 3, Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security 6.9 - Further planetary warming risks large-scale release of stored carbon, requiring responses from different players at different scales.
Unit 1:	2.1	Processes associated	Area of study 1, Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards

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<p>Changing Physical Environments</p> <p><i>Theme 2:</i></p> <p>Investigating Tectonic and Hydrological Change</p>		with plate tectonics	1.1, 1.2 – physical processes causing tectonic hazards
	2.2	Hazards associated with tectonic events	<p>Area of study 1, Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards</p> <p>1.1, 1.2, 2.3 – distribution of hazards associated with different types of tectonic activity</p> <p>1.4, 1.5, 1.6 – factors affecting varying impacts of hazards</p>
	2.3	Perception and management of tectonic hazards	<p>Area of study 1, Topic 1 – Tectonic Processes and Hazards</p> <p>1.8, 1.9 – role of prediction and range of management strategies to reduce impacts</p>
	2.4	Hydrological processes associated with drainage basins	<p>Area of study 3, Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity</p> <p>5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.6, 5.9 – processes operating within the hydrological cycle – physical and human factors affecting drainage basin cycles, river regimes, storm hydrographs</p>
	2.5	Causes and consequences of flooding	<p>Area of study 3, Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity</p> <p>5.5 – causes and impacts of floods</p>
	2.6	Perception and management of flood hazards	<p>Limited coverage.</p> <p>Area of study 3, Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity</p> <p>5.9 – different approaches to managing water supply</p>
<p>Unit 2: Changing Human Environments</p> <p><i>Theme 1:</i></p> <p>Investigating Population Change</p>	1.1	Demographic change	<p>Area of study 2, Topic 4B Diverse Places</p> <p>4B.1, 4B.2, 4B.3 – how do population structures vary?</p>
	1.2	Natural population change	
	1.3	Role of migration in population change	<p>Area of study 2, Topic 3: Globalisation</p> <p>3.5 – causes and consequences of rural–urban migration and international migration</p> <p>Area of study 2, Topic 4, Option 4B: Diverse Places</p> <p>4B.7, 4B.8 – varying impacts of migration across the UK</p> <p>Area of study 4, Topic 8, Option 8B: Migration, Identity and Sovereignty</p> <p>8B.1, 8B.3 – causes of migration, varying impacts of international migration</p>
	1.4	Issues of migration of refugees and asylum seekers	
1.5	Causes and impacts of changing gender structures	<p>Limited coverage of gender structures and demographic challenges.</p> <p>Area of study 4, Topic 8, Option 8A: Health, Human Rights and Intervention</p>	

	1.6	Demographic challenges	8A.2, 8A.3 – variations in health and life expectancy in countries at different stages of development
Unit 2: Changing Human Environments <i>Theme 2:</i> Investigating Settlement Change in MEDCs	2.1	Distinctive features of settlements	Limited coverage of settlement hierarchy. Area of study 2, Topic 4, Option 4A: Regenerating Places 4A.2 – function and land-use in urban and rural areas, and how and why they have changed over time 4A.5 – lived experience and perceptions of place Area of study 2, Topic 4, Option 4B: Diverse Places 4B.4, 4B.5, 4B.11, 4B.12 – places in the UK are varied and some are changing rapidly 4B.4, 4B.5 – lived experience and perceptions of place
	2.2	Variations in social and cultural structures of settlements	Area of study 2, Topic 4, Option 4B: Diverse Places 4B.1, 4B.2 – populations vary from place to place across the rural–urban continuum e.g. in terms of age, gender and ethnicity 4B.1, 4B.2 – distinctive cultural and demographic differences between places
	2.3 2.4	Issues of the inner city and the CBD	Area of study 2, Topic 4, Option 4A: Regenerating Places 4A.4 – economic restructuring has had varying consequences, leading to deindustrialisation in some places 4A.4 – some places are more in need of regeneration than others 4A.7, 4A.8, 4A.9 – how regeneration is managed 4A.6 – evaluation of regeneration strategies
	2.5	Changes in the rural–urban fringe	Limited coverage.
	2.6	Changes in rural settlements	Area of study 2, Topic 4, Option 4A: Regenerating Places 4A.8, 4A.9, 4A.12 – changes and regeneration in rural areas Area of study 2, Topic 4, Option 4B: Diverse Places 4B.5, 4B.12 – perceptions of rural places vary, changes in rural areas
		1.1	Characteristics of desert environments
Unit 3: Section A			

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<p>Contemporary Themes and Research in Geography <i>Theme 1:</i> Extreme Environments – Desert and Tundra</p>	1.2	Human activity causes pressure on desert environments	
	1.3	Strategies to manage human activity in desert environments	
	1.4	Characteristics of arctic and alpine tundra environments	<p>Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2A: Glaciated Landscapes and Change 2A.2 – characteristics and distribution of high altitude and high latitude cold environments</p>
	1.5 1.6	Human activity causes pressure and strategies to manage these threats	<p>Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2A: Glaciated Landscapes and Change 2A.11 – human activities pose a threat to glaciated upland landscapes, which can be managed using a spectrum of approaches</p>
<p>Unit 3: Section A Contemporary Themes and Research in Geography <i>Theme 2a:</i> Glacial Landforms and their Management</p>	1.1	Glacial systems and the dynamics of glacial environments	<p>Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2A: Glaciated Landscapes and Change 2A.11 – impact of climate change on the formation of glaciated landscapes 2A.5 – glacial dynamics and processes affecting glacial movement</p>
	1.2	Processes of weathering and erosion and resultant landforms	<p>Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2A: Glaciated Landscapes and Change 2A.7 – glacial erosion creates distinctive landforms</p>
	1.3	Processes of transport and deposition and resultant landforms	<p>Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2A: Glaciated Landscapes and Change 2A.8 – glacial deposition creates distinctive landforms</p>
	1.4	Effects of deglaciation on the landscape	<p>Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2A: Glaciated Landscapes and Change 2A.3 – periglacial processes produce distinctive landscapes 2A.9 – glacial meltwater plays a significant role in creating distinctive landforms</p>
	1.5	Importance of glacial environments	<p>Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2A: Glaciated Landscapes and Change 2A.10 – glacial landscapes have intrinsic value 2A.11 – threats facing fragile glaciated upland landscapes</p>

	1.6	Management of glacial environments	Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2A: Glaciated Landscapes and Change 2A.12 – management of glaciated landscapes
Unit 3: Section A Contemporary Themes and Research in Geography <i>Theme 2b:</i> Coastal Landforms and their Management	1.1	Coastal systems and the dynamics of coastal environments	Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2B: Coastal Landscapes and Change 2B.1, 2B.2, 2B.3 – why coastal landscapes are different and the processes that cause these differences 2B.4, 2B.5 – wave types, sediment cell concept
	1.2	Processes of coastal erosion and resultant landforms	Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2B: Coastal Landscapes and Change 2B.4, 2B.5, 2B.6 – marine erosion and sub-aerial processes create distinctive coastal landforms 2B.7, 2B.8, 2B.9, 2B.10 – sea level change influences coasts on different timescales
	1.3	Processes of transport and deposition and resultant landforms	Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2B: Coastal Landscapes and Change 2B.5 – sediment transport and deposition create distinctive coastal landforms 2B.7, 2B.8, 2B.9, 2B.10 – sea level change influences coasts on different timescales
	1.4	Role of geology in the development of coastal landforms	Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2B: Coastal Landscapes and Change 2B.1, 2B.2 – geological structure influences the development of coastal landscapes 2B.3 – rates of coastal recession depend on lithology
	1.5	Why coastal environments need to be managed	Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2B: Coastal Landscapes and Change 2B.8, 2B.9, 2B.10, 2B.11 – rapid coastal retreat and coastal flooding pose threats to people and need to be managed
	1.6	Management of coastal environments	Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2B: Coastal Landscapes and Change 2B.12 – coastal environments can be managed using a spectrum of approaches
	Unit 3: Section A Contemporary Themes and Research in Geography <i>Theme 3:</i> Climatic Hazards	1.1	Global atmospheric circulation and global climatic zones
1.2		Seasonal and periodic variations of climate	Limited coverage in Pearson Edexcel 2016 Specification. Area of study 3, Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
1.3			

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	1.4	The world's major climates Causes of low-pressure and high pressure hazards	5.4, 5.6 – causes of droughts, role of the ENSO cycle and global warming Area of study 1, Topic 1 – Tectonic Processes and Hazards 1.7 – the concept of a multiple-hazard zone e.g. Philippines – interaction of hydrometeorological and geophysical hazards
	1.5	Inter-relationships between human activity and climate	Area of study 3, Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity 5.5 – impacts of droughts on people Area of study 3, Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security 6.7, 6.8, 6.9 – anthropogenic climate change and links to the water cycle and carbon cycles
	1.6	Strategies to reduce the impact of climatic hazards	Area of study 3, Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security 6.9 - Further planetary warming risks large-scale release of stored carbon, requiring responses from different players at different scales.
Unit 3: Section A Contemporary Themes and Research in Geography <i>Theme 4: Development</i>	1.1	Definitions of development and the development gap	Area of study 4, Topic 8, Option 8A: Health, Human Rights and Intervention 8A.1 – concepts of human development are complex and contested 8A.2 – there are notable variations in human health and life expectancy
	1.2	Measurements of development	Area of study 2, Topic 3: Globalisation 3.7 – economic and social measures of development Area of study 4, Topic 8, Option 8A: Health, Human Rights and Intervention 8A.1, 8A.2 – levels of human development vary
	1.3	Factors leading to contemporary differences in development	Area of study 2, Topic 3: Globalisation 3.4 – the global shift has created winners and losers in a globalising world 3.7 – the role of globalisation in narrowing and also widening inequalities Area of study 4, Topic 7: Superpowers 7.3 – emerging powers – NICs and BRICs, theories such as Dependency Theory can be used to help explain changing patterns of power
	1.4	Changing patterns of development	Area of study 4, Topic 8, Option 8A: Health, Human Rights and Intervention 8A.2 – there are variations in health and life expectancy within countries that are related to ethnic variations

			8A.6 – inequalities within countries – role of ethnicity and gender
	1.5	Factors that hinder the closing of the development gap	<p>Area of study 4, Topic 7: Superpowers</p> <p>7.1 – superpowers have a significant influence over the global economic system</p> <p>Area of study 4, Topic 8, Option 8A: Health, Human Rights and Intervention</p> <p>8A.2 – variations in human rights are reflected in different levels of social development</p>
	1.6	Strategies to reduce the development gap	<p>Area of study 4, Topic 8, Option 8A: Health, Human Rights and Intervention</p> <p>8A.3 – role of key players in defining development targets and policies</p> <p>8A.8, 8A.11 – different forms of aid and their strengths and weaknesses</p> <p>Area of study 4, Topic 8, Option 8B: Migration, Identity and Sovereignty</p> <p>8B.8 – impact of structural adjustment and HIPC policies</p>
<p>Unit 3: Section A Contemporary Themes and Research in Geography <i>Theme 5:</i> Globalisation</p>	1.1	Globalisation and global shift	<p>Area of study 2, Topic 3: Globalisation</p> <p>3.1, 3.2 – characteristics of globalisation</p>
	1.2	Factors causing economic globalisation	<p>Area of study 2, Topic 3: Globalisation</p> <p>3.1, 3.2 – factors causing globalisation to accelerate</p>
	1.3	Globalisation of companies	<p>Area of study 2, Topic 3: Globalisation</p> <p>3.2, 3.3 – role of TNCs in globalisation</p>
	1.4 1.5	Winners and losers from global shift and globalisation	<p>Area of study 2, Topic 3: Globalisation</p> <p>3.3 – globalisation affects some places more than others</p> <p>3.4, 3.6, 3.9 – impacts of globalisation – winners and losers</p> <p>Area of study 4, Topic 7: Superpowers</p> <p>7.3 – emerging powers – NICs and BRICs</p>
	1.6	Causes and effects of political and cultural globalisation	<p>Area of study 2, Topic 3: Globalisation</p> <p>3.6 – emergence of a global culture based on western ideas</p> <p>3.8 – social and political tensions caused by globalisation</p> <p>Area of study 4, Topic 7: Superpowers</p> <p>7.5, 7.8, 7.9 – economic, political and environmental impacts of superpowers</p>

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<p>Unit 3: Section A Contemporary Themes and Research in Geography <i>Theme 6a / 6b:</i> Emerging Asia – China / India</p>	<p>1.1 1.2 1.3 1.4 1.5 1.6</p>	<p>Physical and demographic characteristics of China/India</p> <p>Why and how the economy is changing</p> <p>Economic and social challenges facing rural and urban communities</p> <p>Effects of globalisation on China/India</p> <p>Environmental challenges and solutions facing China/India</p>	<p>While there are no topics dedicated solely to the study of one country in the 2016 Pearson Edexcel Specification, located examples are integrated throughout, with suggestions marked in the specification with a 🌐 symbol.</p> <p>Some examples of their possible inclusion are as follows.</p> <p>Area of study 4, Topic 7: Superpowers</p> <p>7.3 – emerging powers such as China and India vary in their influence</p> <p>7.6 – global environmental concerns are disproportionately influenced by superpowers such as China</p> <p>7.8 – developing economic ties between emerging powers and the developing world e.g. China in Africa</p> <p>Area of study 2, Topic 3: Globalisation</p> <p>3.2 – special economic zones, attitudes to FDI e.g. China’s 1978 Open Door Policy</p> <p>3.4 – global shift of manufacturing to China and outsourcing of services to India</p> <p>3.5 – rural–urban migration leading to growth of megacities e.g. Mumbai</p> <p>Area of study 3, Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity</p> <p>5.9 – different approaches to managing water supply</p>
<p>Unit 3: Section B Contemporary Themes and Research in Geography Individual Research Enquiry</p>	<p>A level Coursework - A level Independent Investigation</p>		
<p>Unit 4 Sustainability <i>Theme 1:</i> Sustainable Food Supply</p>	<p>1.1 1.2 1.3 1.4</p>	<p>Global pattern of food consumption</p> <p>Factors promote or hinder food production</p> <p>Sustainable methods to increase/ maintain food supply</p>	<p>Limited coverage.</p> <p>Area of study 3, Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security</p> <p>6.3 – importance of soil health in ecosystem productivity and food production</p> <p>6.7 – growing demand for food has led to changes in land-use cover</p>
<p>Unit 4 Sustainability</p>	<p>2.1 2.2</p>	<p>Physical and human factors</p>	<p>Area of study 3, Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity</p>

<p><i>Theme 2:</i> Sustainable Water Supply</p>		affect water supply	<p>5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6 – impact of physical and human factors on the hydrological cycle</p> <p>5.7 – physical and human causes of water insecurity</p>
	2.3 2.4	Sustainable management of water supply	<p>Area of study 3, Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity</p> <p>5.9 – there are different approaches to managing water supply, some more sustainable than others</p>
<p>Unit 4 Sustainability <i>Theme 3:</i> Sustainable Energy</p>	3.1 3.2	Problems associated with energy supply and changing demand for energy	<p>Area of study 3, Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security</p> <p>6.4 – energy security is a key goal</p> <p>6.5 – reliance on fossil fuels and impacts of development of unconventional fossil fuels</p> <p>Area of study 4, Topic 7: Superpowers</p> <p>7.6 – superpower resource demands can cause environmental degradation</p>
	3.3 3.4	Sustainable management of energy supply, now and in the future	<p>Area of study 3, Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security</p> <p>6.6 – the costs and benefits of alternatives to fossil fuels</p>
<p>Unit 4 Sustainability <i>Theme 4:</i> Sustainable Cities</p>	4.1 4.2 4.3 4.4	<p>Classification of cities</p> <p>Pressures on cities</p> <p>Solutions</p> <p>Sustainable cities</p>	<p>Limited coverage.</p> <p>Area of study 2, Topic 3: Globalisation</p> <p>3.5 – rural-urban migration leads to the growth of megacities creating social and environmental challenges</p> <p>Area of study 2, Topic 4, Option 4A: Regenerating Places</p> <p>4A.7, 4A.8, 4A.9 – regeneration schemes in urban areas</p>

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 feedbacks 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 – increased 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.

Area of study 4, Topic 8, Option 8B: Migration, Identity and Sovereignty – tensions between impacts of globalisation, nationalism and territorial integrity, and how effectively these tensions are managed.

