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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dynamic Landscapes</th>
<th>Dynamic Places</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Topic 1</strong>: Tectonic Processes and Hazards</td>
<td><strong>Topic 3</strong>: Globalisation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Topic 2</strong>: Landscape Systems, Processes and Change – a choice of <strong>either</strong> 2A Glaciated Landscapes and Change <strong>or</strong> 2B Coastal Landscapes and Change</td>
<td><strong>Topic 4</strong>: Shaping Places – a choice of <strong>either</strong> 4A Regenerating Places <strong>or</strong> 4B Diverse Places</td>
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<tr>
<th>Physical Systems and Sustainability</th>
<th>Human Systems and Geopolitics</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Topic 5</strong>: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity</td>
<td><strong>Topic 7</strong>: Superpowers</td>
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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit and Topic</th>
<th>Qu</th>
<th>2008 WJEC specification</th>
<th>2016 Pearson Edexcel specification</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Unit 1:</strong> Changing Physical Environments</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Theme 1:</strong> Investigating Climate Change</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1 World’s major climates and link to biomes</td>
<td></td>
<td>No coverage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Temporal patterns of climate change</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2A: Glaciated Landscapes and Change 2A.1 – the characteristics of climate change vary on different timescales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Causes of climate change</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2A: Glaciated Landscapes and Change 2A.1 – the causes of climate change vary on different timescales</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Area of study 3, Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity 5.6 – climate change resulting from ENSO cycles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Area of study 3, Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security 6.3, 6.9 – human activities are changing the balance of carbon and leading to planetary warming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 Issues resulting from climate change</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Area of study 3, Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity 5.1 – impacts of climate change on the hydrological cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 Pros and cons of strategies to address climate change</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.6</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Unit 1:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Processes associated</td>
<td>Area of study 1, Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Unit 2:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Unit 3:</strong></td>
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### A level Geography specification maps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Changing Physical Environments</th>
<th>with plate tectonics</th>
<th>1.1, 1.2 – physical processes causing tectonic hazards</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **Theme 2:** Investigating Tectonic and Hydrological Change | **2.2** Hazards associated with tectonic events | **Area of study 1, Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards**  
1.1, 1.2, 2.3 – distribution of hazards associated with different types of tectonic activity  
1.4, 1.5, 1.6 – factors affecting varying impacts of hazards |
| **2.3** Perception and management of tectonic hazards | **Area of study 1, Topic 1 – Tectonic Processes and Hazards**  
1.8, 1.9 – role of prediction and range of management strategies to reduce impacts |
| **2.4** Hydrological processes associated with drainage basins | **Area of study 3, Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity**  
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 |
| **2.5** Causes and consequences of flooding | **Area of study 3, Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity**  
5.5 – causes and impacts of floods |
| **2.6** Perception and management of flood hazards | Limited coverage.  
**Area of study 3, Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity**  
5.9 – different approaches to managing water supply |
| **Unit 2:** Changing Human Environments | 1.1 Demographic change | **Area of study 2, Topic 4B Diverse Places**  
4B.1, 4B.2, 4B.3 – how do population structures vary? |
| **Theme 1:** Investigating Population Change | 1.2 Natural population change | **Area of study 2, Topic 3: Globalisation**  
3.5 – causes and consequences of rural–urban migration and international migration  
**Area of study 2, Topic 4, Option 4B: Diverse Places**  
4B.7, 4B.8 – varying impacts of migration across the UK  
**Area of study 4, Topic 8, Option 8B: Migration, Identity and Sovereignty**  
8B.1, 8B.3 – causes of migration, varying impacts of international migration |
| **1.3** Role of migration in population change | **Limited coverage of gender structures and demographic challenges.**  
**Area of study 4, Topic 8, Option 8A: Health, Human Rights and Intervention** |  
**Issues of migration of refugees and asylum seekers** |
| **1.4** Causes and impacts of changing gender structures | **Limited coverage of gender structures and demographic challenges.**  
**Area of study 4, Topic 8, Option 8A: Health, Human Rights and Intervention** |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.6</th>
<th>Demographic challenges</th>
<th>8A.2, 8A.3 – variations in health and life expectancy in countries at different stages of development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Unit 2: Changing Human Environments**  
**Theme 2:** 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 |
| **Unit 3: Section A** | **1.1** Characteristics of desert environments | No coverage of desert environments. |
### Contemporary Themes and Research in Geography

**Theme 1:** Extreme Environments – Desert and Tundra

| 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 |
| 1.5 | Human activity causes pressure and strategies to manage these threats |

**Unit 3: Section A
Contemporary Themes and Research in Geography
Theme 2a:** Glacial Landforms and their Management

| 1.1 | Glacial systems and the dynamics of glacial environments |
| 1.2 | Processes of weathering and erosion and resultant landforms |
| 1.3 | Processes of transport and deposition and resultant landforms |
| 1.4 | Effects of deglaciation on the landscape |
| 1.5 | Importance of glacial environments |

**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
- **2A.11** - human activities pose a threat to glaciated upland landscapes, which can be managed using a spectrum of approaches
- **2A.7** - glacial erosion creates distinctive landforms
- **2A.8** - glacial deposition creates distinctive landforms
- **2A.3** - periglacial processes produce distinctive landscapes
- **2A.9** - glacial meltwater plays a significant role in creating distinctive landforms
- **2A.10** - glacial landscapes have intrinsic value
- **2A.11** - threats facing fragile glaciated upland landscapes

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 3: Section A Contemporary Themes and Research in Geography Theme 2b: Coastal Landforms and their Management</th>
<th>1.6</th>
<th>Management of glacial environments</th>
<th>Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2A: Glaciated Landscapes and Change 2A.12 – management of glaciated landscapes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Coastal systems and the dynamics of coastal environments</td>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>Processes of coastal erosion and resultant landforms</td>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Processes of transport and deposition and resultant landforms</td>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>Role of geology in the development of coastal landforms</td>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Why coastal environments need to be managed</td>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>Management of coastal environments</td>
<td>Area of study 1, Topic 2, Option 2B: Coastal Landscapes and Change 2B.12 – coastal environments can be managed using a spectrum of approaches</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 3: Section A Contemporary Themes and Research in Geography Theme 3: Climatic Hazards</th>
<th>1.1</th>
<th>Global atmospheric circulation and global climatic zones</th>
<th>No coverage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
### 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**

**Theme 4: Development**

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

**Theme 6a / 6b: Emerging Asia – China / India**

| 1.1 | Physical and demographic characteristics of China/India |
| 1.2 | Why and how the economy is changing |
| 1.3 | Economic and social challenges facing rural and urban communities |
| 1.4 | Effects of globalisation on China/India |
| 1.5 | Environmental challenges and solutions facing China/India |

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. Some examples of their possible inclusion are as follows.

**Area of study 4, Topic 7: Superpowers**
- 7.3 – emerging powers such as China and India vary in their influence
- 7.6 – global environmental concerns are disproportionately influenced by superpowers such as China
- 7.8 – developing economic ties between emerging powers and the developing world e.g. China in Africa

**Area of study 2, Topic 3: Globalisation**
- 3.2 – special economic zones, attitudes to FDI e.g. China’s 1978 Open Door Policy
- 3.4 – global shift of manufacturing to China and outsourcing of services to India
- 3.5 – rural-urban migration leading to growth of megacities e.g. Mumbai

**Area of study 3, Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity**
- 5.9 – different approaches to managing water supply

### Unit 3: Contemporary Themes and Research in Geography

**Section B**

**Individual Research Enquiry**

**A level Coursework - A level Independent Investigation**

### Unit 4 Sustainability

**Theme 1: Sustainable Food Supply**

| 1.1 | Global pattern of food consumption |
| 1.2 | Factors promote or hinder food production |
| 1.3 | Sustainable methods to increase/maintain food supply |

Limited coverage.

**Area of study 3, Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security**
- 6.3 – importance of soil health in ecosystem productivity and food production
- 6.7 – growing demand for food has led to changes in land-use cover

### Unit 4 Sustainability

| 2.1 | Physical and human factors |

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

**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.