

Edexcel GCSE Geography A

Comparing the 2012 Edexcel GCSE Geography A specification to the new 2016 Geography A specification

This document is designed to help you compare the existing 2012 Edexcel GCSE Geography A specification (2GA01) with the new 2016 Edexcel GCSE Geography A specification.

The document gives an overview, at the topic level, of where the material covered in the existing Edexcel GCSE Geography A specification can be found in the new Edexcel 2016 Edexcel GCSE Geography A specification.

The following tables then give a more detailed breakdown of the Edexcel Geography A specification, and highlight areas of difference. These will help you to see where material that you currently teach is not present in the Edexcel specification; or where the Edexcel specification incorporates material that is new to you.

The 2016 Edexcel Geography A specification is split into three content components.

Component 1: The Physical Environment, 37.5% of the qualification

- Topic 1 The changing landscapes of the UK – including a choice of two from coastal landscapes, river landscapes and glacial landscapes
- Topic 2 Weather hazards and climate change
- Topic 3 Ecosystems, biodiversity and management

Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes, 94 marks

Component 2: The Human Environment, 37.5% of the qualification

- Topic 4 Changing cities
- Topic 5 Global development
- Topic 6 Resource management – including a choice of either energy resource management or water resource management

Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes, 94 marks

Component 3: Geographical Investigations: Fieldwork and UK Challenges, 25% of the qualification

- Topic 7 Geographical investigations – fieldwork
- Topic 8 Geographical investigations – UK challenges

Written examination, 1 hour and 15 minutes, 64 marks

Our free support includes:

- a dedicated Geography Adviser, Jon Wolton
- additional GCSE Geography A specimen papers
- student exemplars with assessment commentary
- mock marking training
- Getting Started Guide and course planners for a two-year and three-year GCSE
- 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.

Overview of content

2012 Edexcel GCSE Geography A	2016 Edexcel GCSE Geography A
Unit 1 (5GA1F/1H) Geographical Skills and Challenges	
Section A – Geographical Skills Compulsory topics are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Basic Skills 2. Cartographic Skills 3. Graphical Skills 4. Geographical Enquiry Skills 5. ICT Skills 6. GIS Skills 	Geographic, mathematics and statistics skills may be assessed across any of the examined components. Some geographical skills are specific to particular subject content; these are indicated in the 'integrated skills' sections within the topics throughout the specification.
Section B – Challenges for the Planet 7.1 The causes, effects and responses to climate change	2.2 The global climate was different in the past and continues to change due to natural causes 2.3 Global climate is now changing as a result of human activity 8.4 The UK's climate change challenges
7.2 Sustainable development for the planet	3.5 Tropical rainforests provide a range of goods and services, some of which are under threat 8.1 The UK's resource consumption and environmental sustainability challenge
Unit 2 (5GA2F/2H)	
The Natural Environment	
Section A – The Physical World 1.1 Coastal processes produce landforms	1.3 A variety of physical processes interact to shape coastal landscapes 1.4 Coastal erosion and deposition create distinctive landforms within the coastal landscape
1.2 Coastal landforms are subject to change	1.5 Human activities can lead to changes in coastal landscapes which affect people and the environment
1.3 Coastal management	1.5 Human activities can lead to changes in coastal landscapes which affect people and the environment 8.3 The UK's landscape challenges
2.1 River processes produce distinctive landforms	1.7 A variety of physical processes interact to shape river landscapes 1.8 Erosion and deposition interacting with geology create distinctive landforms in river landscapes
2.2 Flooding and flood prevention	1.9 Human activities can lead to changes in river landscapes which affect people and the environment
2.3 River management	1.9 Human activities can lead to changes in river landscapes which affect people and the environment 8.3 The UK's landscape challenges
3.1 Location and characteristics of tectonic activity	N/A

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3.2 Management of the effects of tectonic activity	N/A
Section B – Environmental Issues	
4.1 Types of waste and its production	N/A
4.2 Recycling and disposal of waste	N/A
4.3 Sources and uses of energy	6.3 Renewable and non-renewable energy resources can be developed 6.4 To meet demand, countries use energy resources in different proportions. This is called the energy mix
4.4 Management of energy usage and waste	6.5 There is increasing demand for energy that is being met by renewable and non-renewable resources 6.6 Meeting the demands for energy resources can involve interventions by different interest groups 6.7 Management and sustainable use of energy resources are required at a range of spatial scales from local to international 8.1 The UK's resource consumption and environmental sustainability challenge
5.1 Water consumption and sources	6.8 The supply of fresh water supply varies globally 6.9 There are differences between the water consumption patterns of developing countries and developed countries
5.2 Water supply problems	6.10 Countries at different levels of development have water supply problems
5.3 Management of water usage and resources	6.11 Meeting the demands for water resources could involve technology and interventions by different interest groups 6.12 Management and sustainable use of water resources are required at a range of spatial scales from local to international 8.1 The UK's resource consumption and environmental sustainability challenge
Unit 3 (5GA3F/3H)	
The Human Environment	
Section A – The Human World	5.6 The interactions of economic, social and demographic processes influence the development of the chosen developing or emerging country
1.1 Changes to different economic sectors	
1.2 Economic locations	N/A
2.1 Factors affecting settlements	N/A
2.2 Changing land use in urban areas	8.2 The UK settlement, population and economic challenges
2.3 Rapid growth in LICs	4.7 The character of the chosen developing country or emerging country city is influenced by its fast rate of growth 4.8 Rapid growth, within the chosen developing country or emerging country city, results in a number of challenges that need to be managed
3.1 Population growth and distribution	8.1 The UK's resource consumption and environmental sustainability challenge
3.2 Characteristics of population	N/A
Section B – People Issues	8.2 The UK settlement, population and economic challenges
4.1 Population movement	

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4.2 Flows of population	4.4 The chosen UK city is being changed by movements of people, employment and services 8.2 The UK settlement, population and economic challenges
4.3 Factors influencing rates of population movement	8.2 The UK settlement, population and economic challenges
4.4 Reasons for short-term population flow	8.2 The UK settlement, population and economic challenges
4.5 Retirement migration	N/A
5.1 Growth of the tourist industry	N/A
5.2 Resort development	N/A
5.3 Impacts of the tourist industry	N/A
5.4 Eco-tourism	N/A
Unit 4 (5GA04)	
Controlled Assessment: Fieldwork and enquiry skills include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • planning/pre-fieldwork • research and data collection • data presentation • analysis, conclusions and evaluation. 	No Controlled Assessment – Students will be required to carry out two geographical investigations each involving fieldwork and research. This will follow a similar enquiry process, but will be assessed within the examination for Component 3.

In-depth comparison

2016 Edexcel GCSE Geography A	2012 Edexcel GCSE Geography A	What's new for you	What you no longer teach
Component 1: The Physical Environment	Unit 2: The Natural Environment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × 3.1 Location and characteristics of tectonic activity × 3.2 Management of the effects of tectonic activity
Topic 1: The changing landscapes of the UK	Topic 1: Coastal landscapes and Topic 2: River landscapes (Unit 2)	<p>The overview of landscapes of the UK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 1.1 There are geological variations within the UK ✓ 1.2 A number of physical and human processes work together to create distinct UK landscapes <p>One named case study in 1A Coastal landscapes and processes and 1B River landscapes and processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 1.6 Distinctive coastal landscapes are the outcome of the interaction between physical and human processes ✓ 1.10 Distinctive river landscapes are the outcome of the interaction between physical and human processes <p>The option to study 1C: Glaciated upland landscapes and processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 1.11 A variety of physical processes interact to shape upland glaciated landscapes ✓ 1.12 Glacial erosion and deposition create distinctive landforms within upland glaciated landscapes ✓ 1.13 Human activities can lead to changes in upland glaciated landscapes ✓ 1.14 Distinctive glaciated upland landscapes are the outcome of the 	

2016 Edexcel GCSE Geography A	2012 Edexcel GCSE Geography A	What's new for you	What you no longer teach
		interaction between physical and human processes	
Topic 2: Weather hazards and climate change	Topic 7: Challenges for the planet (Unit 1)	<p>New content about weather and climate, which is a DfE requirement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 2.1 The atmosphere operates as a global system transferring heat and energy ✓ 2.4 The UK has a distinct climate which has changed over time ✓ 2.5 Tropical cyclones develop under specific conditions and in certain locations ✓ 2.6 There are various impacts of and responses to tropical cyclones depending on a country's level of development ✓ 2.7 The causes of drought are complex with some locations more vulnerable than others ✓ 2.8 The impacts of and responses to drought vary depending on a country's level of development 	
Topic 3: Ecosystems, biodiversity and management	Topic 7: Challenges for the planet (Unit 3)	<p>New content about global ecosystems and biodiversity, which is a DfE requirement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 3.1 Large-scale ecosystems are found in different parts of the world and are important ✓ 3.2 The biosphere is a vital system ✓ 3.3 The UK has its own variety of distinctive ecosystems that it relies on ✓ 3.4 Tropical rainforests show a range of distinguishing features ✓ 3.6 Deciduous woodlands show a range of distinguishing features ✓ 3.7 Deciduous woodlands provide a 	

2016 Edexcel GCSE Geography A	2012 Edexcel GCSE Geography A	What's new for you	What you no longer teach
		range of goods and services some of which are under threat	
Component 2: The Human Environment	Unit 3: The Human Environment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × 4.5 Retirement migration × 5.1 Growth of the tourist industry × 5.2 Resort development × 5.3 Impacts of the tourist industry × 5.4 Eco-tourism
Topic 4: Changing cities	Topic 2: Settlement change and Topic 4: A moving world (Unit 3)	<p>New content about cities and urban society, which is a DfE requirement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 4.1 Urbanisation is a global process ✓ 4.2 The degree of urbanisation varies across the UK ✓ 4.3 The context of the chosen UK city influences its functions and structure ✓ 4.5 Globalisation and economic change create challenges for the chosen UK city that require long-term solutions ✓ 4.6 The context of the chosen developing country or emerging country city influences its functions and structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × 2.1 Factors affecting settlements

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Topic 5: Global development	Topic 1: Economic change (Unit 3)	<p>New content about global economic development issues, which is a DfE requirement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 5.1 Definitions of development vary as do attempts to measure it ✓ 5.2 The level of development varies globally ✓ 5.3 Uneven global development has had a range of consequences ✓ 5.4 A range of strategies has been used to try to address uneven development ✓ 5.5 The level of development of the chosen developing or emerging country is influenced by its location and context in the world ✓ 5.7 Changing geopolitics and technology impact on the chosen developing or emerging country ✓ 5.8 There are positive and negative impacts of rapid development for the people and environment of the chosen developing or emerging country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × 1.2 Economic locations
Topic 6: Resource management A choice of either 6A Energy resource management or 6B: Water resource management	Topic 4: A wasteful world and Topic 5: A watery world (Unit 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 6.1 A natural resource is any feature or part of the environment that can be used to meet human needs ✓ 6.2 The patterns of the distribution and consumption of natural resources varies on a global and a national scale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × 4.1 Types of waste and its production × 4.2 Recycling and disposal of waste
Topic 7: Geographical investigations – fieldwork		<p>Increased fieldwork requirements, which is a DfE requirement.</p> <p>Two geographical investigations each involving fieldwork and research. There is a choice of one from two environments in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 7A: Investigating physical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × The geographical investigation is no longer completed as a Controlled Assessment and submitted for external moderation; fieldwork is now assessed through a formal examination in Component 3.

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		environments (rivers or coasts) ✓ and ✓ 7B: Investigating human landscapes (central/inner urban area or rural settlements).	
Topic 8: Geographical investigations – UK challenges	Across all topics	✓ 8.1b Pressures of growing populations on the UK's ecosystems. ✓ 8.2a The 'two-speed economy' and options for bridging the gap between south east and the rest of the UK. ✓ 8.3a Approaches to conservation and development of UK National Parks	× 3.2 Characteristics of population