

Edexcel GCSE Geography A

Comparing the 2012 OCR GCSE Geography B specification with the new 2016 Edexcel Geography A specification

This document is designed to help you compare the existing 2012 OCR GCSE Geography B specification (J385) 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 OCR GCSE Geography B 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 OCR 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 OCR GCSE Geography B	2016 Edexcel GCSE Geography A
Skills – currently assessed in both the written examination and the Controlled Assessment.	The skills that are identified on pages 8 and 11 of the current OCR specification are included within the 'geographic, mathematics and statistics skills' in the new specification. These 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.
2.4.1 Theme 1: Rivers and Coasts	
a. How do systems ideas help us to understand physical processes that operate in a river basin?	N/A
b. How does river flooding illustrate the interaction between natural processes and human activity?	1.9 Human activities can lead to changes in river landscapes which affect people and the environment
c. What processes and factors are responsible for distinctive landforms within a river basin?	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 1.10 Distinctive river landscapes are the outcome of the interaction between physical and human processes
d. What processes and factors are responsible for distinctive coastal 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 1.6 Distinctive coastal landscapes are the outcome of the interaction between physical and human processes
e. Why is the management of coastlines important?	1.5 Human activities can lead to changes in coastal landscapes which affect people and the environment 8.3 The UK's landscape challenges
2.4.2 Theme 2: Population and Settlement	
a. How and why are there variations between the population structures of countries?	N/A
b. What are the causes and consequences of natural population change over time?	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
c. Why does migration occur and what are its effects?	4.1 Urbanisation is a global process 4.2 The degree of urbanisation varies across the UK 4.4 The chosen UK city is being changed by movements of people, employment and services

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d. How is the pattern of land use within cities changing?	<p>4.3 The context of the chosen UK city influences its functions and structure</p> <p>8.1 The UK's resource consumption and environmental sustainability challenge</p> <p>8.2 The UK settlement, population and economic challenges</p>
e. What affects the provision of goods and retail services in rural and urban settlements?	N/A
2.4.3 Theme 3: Natural Hazards	
a. What is the global distribution of different types of natural hazard?	2.5 Tropical cyclones develop under specific conditions and in certain locations
b. What natural processes cause different types of natural hazards?	<p>2.5 Tropical cyclones develop under specific conditions and in certain locations</p> <p>2.7 The causes of drought are complex with some locations more vulnerable than others</p>
c. How do natural hazards affect people and places in parts of the world with different levels of development?	<p>2.6 There are various impacts of and responses to tropical cyclones depending on a country's level of development</p> <p>2.8 The impacts of and responses to drought vary depending on a country's level of development</p>
d. How can human activities affect the impact of natural hazards?	N/A
e. How can people and places be protected from the impact of natural hazards?	<p>2.6 There are various impacts of and responses to tropical cyclones depending on a country's level of development</p> <p>2.8 The impacts of and responses to drought vary depending on a country's level of development</p>
2.4.4 Theme 4: Economic Development	
a. What is meant by 'development'?	<p>5.1 Definitions of development vary as do attempts to measure it</p> <p>5.4 A range of strategies has been used to try to address uneven development</p>
b. How and why are there variations between the employment structures of different countries?	5.6 The interactions of economic, social and demographic processes influence the development of the chosen developing or emerging country
c. What determines the location of different economic activities?	N/A
d. How do multi-national companies (MNCs) affect development?	N/A
e. How can economic activity affect the physical environment at a variety of scales including global?	5.8 There are positive and negative impacts of rapid development for the people and environment of the chosen developing or emerging country

In-depth comparison

2016 Edexcel GCSE Geography A	2012 OCR GCSE Geography B	What's new for you	What you no longer teach
<p>Component 1: The Physical Environment Topic 1: The changing landscapes of the UK</p>	<p>Theme 1: Rivers and Coasts</p>	<p>New content about the changing landscapes of the UK, which is a DfE requirement.</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>New optional content about 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 interaction between physical and human processes 	<p>× a. How do systems ideas help us to understand physical processes that operate in a river basin?</p>
<p>Topic 2: Weather hazards and climate change</p>	<p>Theme 3: Natural Hazards</p>	<p>New content about changing 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 ✓ 2.2 The global climate was different in the past and continues to change due to natural causes ✓ 2.3 Global climate is now changing as 	<p>× d. How can human activities affect the impact of natural hazards?</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a result of human activity ✓ 2.4 The UK has a distinct climate which has changed over time 	
<p>Topic 3: Ecosystems, biodiversity and management</p>		<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 ✓ 3.5 Tropical rainforests provide a range of goods and services some of which are under threat ✓ 3.6 Deciduous woodlands show a range of distinguishing features ✓ 3.7 Deciduous woodlands provide a range of goods and services some of which are under threat 	
<p>Component 2: The Human Environment Topic 4: Changing cities</p>	<p>Theme 2: Population and Settlement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 4.5 Globalisation and economic change create challenges for the chosen UK city that require long-term solutions ✓ 4.6 The context for the chosen developing country or emerging country city influences its functions and structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × a. How and why are there variations between the population structures of countries? × e. What affects the provision of goods and retail services in rural and urban settlements?

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Topic 5: Global development	Theme 4: Economic Development	<p>New content about global economic development issues, which is a DfE requirement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 5.2 The level of development varies globally ✓ 5.3 Uneven global development has had a range of consequences ✓ 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × c. What determines the location of different economic activities? × d. How do multi-national companies (MNCs) affect development?
Topic 6: Resource management A choice of either 6A Energy resource management or 6B Water resource management		<p>New content about resources and their management, which is a DfE requirement.</p> <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 <p>A choice of studying either 6A Energy resource management or 6B Water resource management</p> <p>6A Energy resource management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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. ✓ 6.5 There is increasing demand for energy that is being met by renewable 	

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		<p>and non-renewable resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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 national <p>OR</p> <p>6B Water resource management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 6.8 The supply of fresh water supply varies globally ✓ 6.9 The are differences between the water consumption patterns of developing countries and developed countries ✓ 6.10 Countries at different levels of development have water supply problems ✓ 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 national 	
Topic 7: Geographical investigations – fieldwork		<p>New fieldwork requirements, which are 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 themes	<p>New content about geography of the UK, which is a DfE requirement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 8.1a Changes in the UK's population in the next 50 years and implications on resource consumption. ✓ 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 ✓ 8.2c UK net migration statistics and their reliability and values and attitudes of different stakeholders towards migration ✓ 8.3a Approaches to conservation and development of UK National Parks ✓ 8.4a Uncertainties about how global climate change will impact on the UK's future climate ✓ 8.4b Impacts of climate change on people and landscapes of the UK ✓ 8.4c Range of responses to climate change in the UK at a local and national scale 	