

GCSE (9-1) Geography A and B

AS/A level Geography



Command words are used consistently across GCSE and A level mark tariffs

- ✓ Our assessments are designed to encourage all students to show what they know and understand about geography to the best of their ability.
- ✓ Our assessment structure is straightforward to navigate and our level-based mark schemes to assess extended-response questions are explicit about the types of response and skills required.
- ✓ A clear and consistent relationship across GCSE and AS/A level supports building on the same set of assessment skills each year, reducing transitional workload and helping students to access and master the exams.

Key:

- tariffs that apply to **both GCSE specs**
- A** tariffs are only found in **specification A**
- B** tariffs are only found in **specification B**
- tariffs that apply to **both AS and A level specifications.**
- AS** tariffs are only found in the **AS specification**
- AL** tariffs are only found in the **A level specification**

GCSE						
Marks	1	2	3	4	8	12
Identify/State/Name	●					
Define	●					
Calculate	●	●				
Label	●	●				
Draw		●	●			
Compare			●			
Describe		●	●			
Explain		●	●	●		
Suggest		●	●	●		
Examine						A
Assess					●	
Evaluate					●	
Discuss						A
Justify						B

A level												
Marks	1	2	3	4	6	8	9	12	16	18	20	24
Define	AS											
Identify/State/Name	AS	AS										
Complete	AS	AS										
Describe		AS	AS									
Compare		AS	AS									
Calculate	AS	AS		AL								
Draw/Plot		AS	AS	AL								
Suggest		AS	○		AL							
Explain			AL	○	○	AL						
Analyse						AL						
Assess							AS	○				
Evaluate									AS	AL	AL	AL

The command word mark tariffs outside the grey box are point marked.

The command word mark tariffs inside the grey box are levels based.

Levels-based mark schemes (LBMS) are specific to each particular command word so that students know exactly what traits are expected and can master their approach to these extended writing questions. At GCSE and AS, there are only 3-4 question types like these, whereas at A level a student's extended writing is significantly more important.

- ✓ Pearson is the only exam board to define command words in the specification. Officially regulated by Ofqual, this ensures transparency and that these definitions will be used consistently for the lifetime of the qualification.

Supporting you every step of the way
 To find out more about our assessments, sign-up to our Getting Ready to Teach events:
GCSE: www.edexcel.com/gcsegeogassess
A level: www.edexcel.com/alevelgeogassess