

## Assessment of fieldwork

21. *Geographical fieldwork* may be defined as the experience of understanding and applying specific geographical knowledge, understanding and skills to a particular and real out-of-classroom context. In undertaking fieldwork, students practise a range of skills, gain new geographical insights and begin to appreciate different perspectives on the world around them. Fieldwork is crucial to the strong role envisaged for geography in the revised and more challenging curriculum at all levels and so must be undertaken as part of the specification (see Maps, Fieldwork and Geographical Skills, page 5).

22. The scheme of assessment must include an identifiable element or elements assessing fieldwork. This must include assessment of students' own experiences of fieldwork covering at least two (but not all) of the bullet points below, as well as including assessment of fieldwork in unfamiliar contexts which may be based on exemplar data. Fieldwork will be assessed through examination only. It will comprise 15% of the total assessment weighting (of which 5% is allocated to skills and 10% allocated to application).

23. The following areas of knowledge, skills and understanding should be assessed through the fieldwork assessment.

- i. understanding of the kinds of question capable of being investigated through fieldwork and an understanding of the geographical enquiry processes appropriate to investigate these
- ii. understanding of the range of techniques and methods used in fieldwork, including observation and different kinds of measurement
- iii. processing and presenting fieldwork data in various ways including maps, graphs and diagrams
- iv. analysing and explaining data collected in the field using knowledge of relevant geographical case studies and theories
- v. drawing evidenced conclusions and summaries from fieldwork transcripts and data
- vi. reflecting critically on fieldwork data, methods used, conclusions drawn and knowledge gained

Note that (i), (ii) and (iii) will draw heavily on AO4 (skills) whilst (iv), (v) and (vi) will draw predominantly on AO3 (application).

24. Since fieldwork is an essential aspect of geography which ensures that young people are given the opportunity to consolidate and extend their achievement by relating learning to real experiences of the world, specifications must require that fieldwork is carried out, outside the classroom and school grounds, on at least two occasions (see 'Fieldwork' p.5). Awarding organisations must require evidence of this in the form of a written statement from centres, providing at least the date, location, numbers of students

participating, the main issues/questions investigated during fieldwork, and the relationship of the fieldwork to the specification content.