

At a glance comparison of the
OCR GCSE (9-1) Geography A
and **Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Geography**
specifications



At a glance comparison of the **OCR A** and **Edexcel** specifications

OCR A	Edexcel A	Edexcel B
<p>Paper 1: Living in the UK Today Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscapes of the UK • People of the UK • UK environmental challenges 	<p>Paper 1: The physical environment Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The changing landscapes of the UK • Weather hazards and climate change • Ecosystems, biodiversity and management • Integrated skills 	<p>Paper 1: Global geographical issues Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazardous Earth • Development dynamics • Challenges of an urbanising world • Integrated skills
<p>Assessment overview 1 hour 60 marks 30% of GCSE</p>	<p>Assessment overview 1 hour 30 minutes 94 marks 37.5% of GCSE</p>	<p>Assessment overview 1 hour 30 minutes 94 marks 37.5% of GCSE</p>
<p>Paper 2: The world around us Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystems of the planet • People of the planet • Environmental threats to our planet 	<p>Paper 2: The human environment Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing cities • Global development • Resource management • Integrated skills 	<p>Paper 2: UK geographical issues Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK's evolving physical landscape • UK's evolving human landscape • Integrated skills • Geographical investigations – fieldwork
<p>Assessment overview 1 hour 60 marks 30% of GCSE</p>	<p>Assessment overview 1 hour and 30 minutes 94 marks 37.5% of GCSE</p>	<p>Assessment overview 1 hour and 30 minutes 94 marks 37.5% of GCSE</p>
<p>Paper 3: Geographical Skills Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographical skills • Fieldwork assessment • Synoptic assessment 	<p>Paper 3: Geographical investigations Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographical investigations – physical fieldwork • Geographical investigations – human fieldwork • UK challenges 	<p>Paper 3: Decision making exercise Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People and the biosphere • Forests under threat • Consuming energy resources • Integrated skills
<p>Assessment overview 1 hour and 30 minutes 80 marks 40% of GCSE</p>	<p>Assessment overview 1 hour and 30 minutes 64 marks 25% of GCSE</p>	<p>Assessment overview 1 hour and 30 minutes 64 marks 25% of GCSE</p>

Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Geography A

Key similarities

- A lot of the content is similar, for example; weather hazards, climate change, ecosystems, drought, coasts, and rivers.
- Three case studies in the same context: a major UK city, a major city in a developing or an emerging country and development in a developing or emerging country.
- Two fieldwork enquiries to be carried out in contrasting environments of both human and physical geography.
- Fieldwork will be assessed in Paper 3.
- Fieldwork will be assessed on the student's own experience of fieldwork and applied questions on an unfamiliar context.
- A synoptic element in Paper 3, in the Edexcel specification the UK challenges question will always be based on one of four prescribed people-environment challenges that we face in the UK, whereas in the OCR specification the synoptic question can draw on any topic in the specification
- Geographical skills that are integrated into all aspects of the subject.

Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Geography B

Key similarities

- The specification content is organised by UK and global geography.
- A lot of the content is similar, for example; tectonic hazards, weather hazards, climate change, ecosystems, rainforests, coasts, and rivers.
- Three case studies in the same context: a major UK city, a megacity in a developing or emerging country and development in an emerging country.
- Two fieldwork enquiries to be carried out in contrasting environments of both human and physical geography.
- Fieldwork will be assessed on the student's own experience of fieldwork and applied questions on an unfamiliar context
- A synoptic element in Paper 3, in the Edexcel specification the DME will always be based on an energy issue in either the Tropical Rainforest or the Taiga, whereas in the OCR specification the synoptic question can draw on any topic in the specification.
- Geographical skills that are integrated into all aspects of the subject.

Key benefits of the Edexcel specifications

- Two distinct specifications with familiar approaches.
- Clear specifications with signposted integrated skills, case studies and located examples.
- Specified fieldwork that will stay the same for the lifetime of the qualifications, so you can be confident students are meeting the fieldwork requirements.
- Command words that are used consistently to assess particular skills, making it clear the type of response that is required.
- Command word definitions that will stay the same for the lifetime of the qualifications and, together with question styles, will enable students to focus on 'thinking geographically'.
- More [support](#) than ever before including detailed schemes of work and topic booklets for every topic, additional specimen papers, examiner marked student exemplars and much more.
- Expert support every step of the way from our Geography Subject Advisor, Jon Wolton. [Sign up](#) now to receive Jon's subject updates.

