

# AQA GCSE Geography (2016) Mapping Guide

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# At a glance comparison of the **AQA** and **Edexcel** specifications

<b>AQA</b>	<b>Edexcel A</b>	<b>Edexcel B</b>
<p><b>Paper 1: Living with the physical environment</b> <b>Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The challenge of natural hazards</li> <li>• The living world</li> <li>• Physical landscapes in the UK</li> <li>• Geographical skills</li> </ul>	<p><b>Paper 1: The physical environment</b> <b>Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The changing landscapes of the UK</li> <li>• Weather hazards and climate change</li> <li>• Ecosystems, biodiversity and management</li> <li>• Integrated skills</li> </ul>	<p><b>Paper 1: Global geographical issues</b> <b>Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hazardous Earth</li> <li>• Development Dynamics</li> <li>• Challenges of an urbanising world</li> <li>• Integrated skills</li> </ul>
<p><b>Assessment overview</b> Written exam: 1 hour and 30 minutes 88 marks – 35% of GCSE</p>	<p><b>Assessment overview</b> Written exam: 1 hour and 30 minutes 94 marks – 37.5% of GCSE</p>	<p><b>Assessment overview</b> Written exam: 1 hour and 30 minutes 94 marks – 37.5% of GCSE</p>
<p><b>Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment</b> <b>Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban issues and challenges</li> <li>• The changing economic world</li> <li>• The challenge of resource management</li> <li>• Geographical skills</li> </ul>	<p><b>Paper 2: The human environment</b> <b>Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changing cities</li> <li>• Global development</li> <li>• Resource management</li> <li>• Integrated skills</li> </ul>	<p><b>Paper 2: UK geographical issues</b> <b>Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UK's evolving physical landscape</li> <li>• UK's evolving human landscape</li> <li>• Integrated skills</li> <li>• Geographical investigations – fieldwork</li> </ul>
<p><b>Assessment overview</b> Written exam: 1 hour and 30 minutes 88 marks – 35% of GCSE</p>	<p><b>Assessment overview</b> Written exam: 1 hour and 30 minutes 94 marks – 37.5%</p>	<p><b>Assessment overview</b> Written exam: 1 hour and 30 minutes 94 marks – 37.5%</p>
<p><b>Paper 3: Geographical applications</b> <b>Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue evaluation</li> <li>• Fieldwork</li> <li>• Geographical skills</li> </ul>	<p><b>Paper 3: Geographical investigations</b> <b>Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geographical investigations – physical fieldwork</li> <li>• Geographical investigations – human fieldwork</li> <li>• UK Challenges</li> </ul>	<p><b>Paper 3: Decision making exercise</b> <b>Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People and the biosphere</li> <li>• Forests under threat</li> <li>• Consuming energy resources</li> <li>• Integrated skills</li> </ul>
<p><b>Assessment overview</b> Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes 76marks – 30% of GCSE Pre-release booklet</p>	<p><b>Assessment overview</b> Written exam: 1 hour and 30 minutes 64 marks – 25% of GCSE</p>	<p><b>Assessment overview</b> Written exam: 1 hour and 30 minutes 64 marks – 25% of GCSE</p>

## Edexcel GCSE Geography A

### Key similarities

- The thematic approach with three components; the physical environment, the human environment, and geographical investigations.
- A lot of the content is similar, for example; weather hazards, climate change and the choice of two of UK's physical landscapes from coasts, rivers and glaciation.
- Three case studies in the same context: UK city, mega city in developing and or emerging country and development in an emerging country.
- Fieldwork assessment in Paper 3 alongside an issue evaluation exercise.
- 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.

## Edexcel GCSE Geography B

### Key similarities

- A lot of the content is similar, for example; tectonic hazards, weather hazards, climate change, ecosystems, coasts, and rivers.
- Three case studies in the same context: UK city, mega city in developing and 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 Decision Making Exercise in Paper 3.



# Key benefits of 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.

**Find out more about the published resources available to support teaching Edexcel GCSE Geography A and B (2016).**

# Detailed mapping guide - **What's the same?**

AQA GCSE Geography (2016) subject content	Coverage in Edexcel GCSE Geography A (2016)	Coverage in Edexcel GCSE Geography B (2016)
<b>Living with the physical environment</b>		
<b>Section A: The challenge of natural hazards</b>		
<p><b>3.1.1.1 Natural hazards</b> Natural hazards pose major risks to people and property.</p> <p><b>3.1.1.2 Tectonic hazards</b> Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are the result of physical processes.</p> <p>The effects of, and responses to, a tectonic hazard vary between areas of contrasting levels of wealth.</p> <p>Management can reduce the effects of a tectonic hazard.</p>	<p>Not covered</p> <p>Not covered</p>	<p><b>Topic 1 Hazardous Earth</b></p> <p><b>1.7</b> Earth's layered structure, and physical properties is key to plate tectonics.</p> <p><b>1.8</b> There are different plate boundaries, each with characteristic volcanic and earthquake hazards.</p> <p><b>1.9</b> Tectonic hazards affect people, and are managed, differently at contrasting locations.</p>
<p><b>3.1.1.3 Weather hazards</b></p> <p>Global atmospheric circulation helps to determine patterns of weather and climate.</p> <p>Tropical storms (hurricanes, cyclones, typhoons) develop as a result of particular physical conditions.</p>	<p><b>Topic 2: Weather hazards and climate change</b></p> <p><b>2.1</b> The atmosphere operates as a global system transferring heat and energy.</p> <p><b>2.5</b> Tropical cyclones are extreme weather events that develop under specific conditions and in certain locations.</p>	<p><b>Topic 1 Hazardous Earth</b></p> <p><b>1.1</b> The atmosphere operates as a global system which transfers heat around the Earth.</p> <p><b>1.4</b> Tropical cyclones are caused by particular meteorological conditions.</p>



<p>Tropical storms have significant effects on people and the environment.</p> <p>The UK is affected by a number of weather hazards.</p> <p>Extreme weather events in the UK have impacts on human activity.</p> <p><b>3.1.1.4 Climate change</b> Climate change is the result of natural and human factors, and has a range of effects.</p> <p>Managing climate change involves both mitigation (reducing causes) and adaptation (responding to change).</p>	<p><b>2.5</b> There are various impacts of and responses to natural hazards caused by tropical cyclones depending on a country's level of development.</p> <p>Not covered, although links with 2.4 The UK has a distinct climate which has changed over time.</p> <p>Not covered.</p> <p><b>2.2, 2.3</b> The global climate was different in the past and continues to change due to natural causes. Global climate is now changing as a result of human activity.</p> <p>Links to Topic 6. Resource management</p> <p><b>6.5</b> There is increasing demand for energy that is being met by renewable and non-renewable resources.</p> <p><b>6.11</b> Meeting the demands for water resources could involve technology and interventions by different interest groups.</p>	<p><b>1.5</b> Tropical cyclones present major natural hazards to people and places.</p> <p><b>1.6</b> The impacts of tropical cyclones are linked to a country's ability to prepare and respond to them.</p> <p><b>1.2</b> Climate has changed in the past through natural causes on timescales ranging from hundreds to millions of years.</p> <p><b>1.3</b> Global climate is now changing as a result of human activity, and there is uncertainty about future climates.</p> <p>Links to Topic 9 Consuming energy resources.</p> <p><b>9.5</b> Reducing reliance on fossil fuels presents major technical challenges.</p> <p><b>9.6</b> Attitudes to energy and environmental issues are changing.</p>
<p><b>Section B: The living world</b></p>	<p><b>Topic 3: Ecosystems, biodiversity and management</b></p>	<p><b>Topic 7: People and the Biosphere</b></p>
<p><b>3.1.2.1 Ecosystems</b> Ecosystems exist at a range of scales and involve the interaction between biotic and abiotic components.</p> <p><b>3.1.2.2 Tropical rainforests</b></p>	<p><b>3.1</b> Large-scale ecosystems are found in different parts of the world and are important.</p>	<p><b>7.1</b> The Earth is home to a number of very large ecosystems (biomes) the distribution of which is affected by climate and other factors.</p> <p><b>Topic 8: Forests under threat.</b></p>

<p>Tropical rainforest ecosystems have a range of distinctive characteristics.</p> <p>Deforestation has economic and environmental impacts.</p> <p>Tropical rainforests need to be managed to be sustainable.</p> <p><b>Optional content</b></p> <p><b>3.1.2.3 Hot deserts</b></p> <p>Hot desert ecosystems have a range of distinctive characteristics.</p> <p>Development of hot desert environments creates opportunities and challenges.</p> <p>Areas on the fringe of hot deserts are at risk of desertification.</p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>3.1.2.4 Cold environments</b></p> <p>Cold environments (polar and tundra) have a range of distinctive characteristics.</p> <p>Development of cold environments creates opportunities and challenges.</p> <p>Cold environments are at risk from economic development.</p>	<p><b>3.4</b> Tropical rainforests show a range of distinguishing features.</p> <p><b>3.5</b> Tropical rainforest ecosystems provide a range of goods and services some of which are under threat.</p> <p><b>Topic 2 Weather hazards and climate change</b></p> <p><b>2.7</b> The causes of drought are complex with some locations more vulnerable than others.</p> <p><b>2.8</b> The impacts of, and responses to, drought vary depending on a country's level of development.</p>	<p><b>8.1</b> The structure, functioning and adaptations of the tropical rainforest reflect the equatorial climate.</p> <p><b>8.3</b> Tropical rainforests are threatened directly by deforestation and indirectly by climate change</p> <p><b>8.5</b> Conservation and sustainable management of tropical rain forests is vital if goods and services are not to be lost for future generations.</p> <p>Not covered.</p> <p>Not covered, although there are links to the Taiga in Topic 8 Forests under threat.</p>
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<b>Section C: Physical landscapes in the UK</b>		
<p><b>3.1.3.1 UK physical landscapes</b></p>	<p><b>Topic 1: The changing landscapes of the UK</b></p>	<p><b>Topic 4: The UK's evolving physical landscape</b></p>
<p>The UK has a range of diverse landscapes.</p>	<p><b>1.1</b> There are geological variations within the UK.</p> <p><b>1.2</b> A number of physical and human processes work together to create distinct UK landscapes.</p>	<p><b>4.1</b> Geology and past processes have influenced the physical landscape of the UK.</p> <p><b>4.2</b> A number of physical and human processes work together to create distinct UK landscapes.</p>
<p><b>Optional content</b></p>		
<p><b>3.1.3.2 Coastal landscapes in the UK</b></p>	<p><b>Optional sub topic 1A: Coastal landscapes and processes</b></p>	<p><b>Sub topic: Coastal change and conflict</b></p>
<p>The coast is shaped by a number of physical processes.</p> <p>result of rock type, structure and physical processes.</p> <p>Different management strategies can be used to protect coastlines from the effects of physical processes.</p>	<p><b>1.3</b> A variety of physical processes interact to shape coastal landscapes.</p> <p><b>1.4</b> Coastal erosion and deposition create distinctive landforms within the coastal landscape.</p> <p><b>1.5</b> Human activities can lead to changes in coastal landscapes which affect people and the environment.</p> <p><b>1.6</b> Distinctive coastal landscapes are the outcome of the interaction between physical and human processes.</p>	<p><b>4.3</b> Distinctive coastal landscapes are influenced by geology interacting with physical processes.</p> <p><b>4.4</b> Distinctive coastal landscapes are modified by human activity interacting with physical processes.</p> <p><b>4.5</b> The interaction of human and physical processes present challenges along coastlines and there are a variety of management options.</p>
<p><b>Optional content</b></p>		
<p><b>3.1.3.3 River landscapes in the UK</b></p>	<p><b>Optional sub topic 1B: River landscapes and processes</b></p>	<p><b>Sub topic: River processes and pressures</b></p>
<p>The shape of river valleys changes as rivers flow downstream.</p>	<p><b>1.7</b> A variety of physical processes interact to shape river landscapes.</p>	<p><b>4.6</b> Distinctive river landscapes have different characteristics formed by interacting physical processes.</p>



<p>Distinctive fluvial landforms result from different physical processes.</p> <p>Different management strategies can be used to protect river landscapes from the effects of flooding.</p> <p><b>Optional content</b></p> <p><b>3.1.3.4 Glacial landscapes in the UK</b></p> <p>Ice was a powerful force in shaping the physical landscape of the UK.</p> <p>Distinctive glacial landforms result from different physical processes.</p> <p>Glaciated upland areas provide opportunities for different economic activities, and management strategies can be used to reduce land use conflicts.</p> <p>Challenges in the human environment</p>	<p><b>1.8</b> Erosion and deposition interacting with geology create distinctive landforms in river landscapes.</p> <p><b>1.9</b> Human activities can lead to changes in river landscapes which affect people and the environment.</p> <p><b>1.10</b> Distinctive river landscapes are the outcome of the interaction between physical and human processes.</p> <p><b>Optional sub topic 1C: Glaciated landscapes and processes</b></p> <p><b>1.11</b> A variety of physical processes interact to shape glaciated upland landscapes.</p> <p><b>1.12</b> Glacial erosion and deposition create distinctive landforms within glaciated upland landscapes.</p> <p><b>1.13</b> Human activities can lead to changes in glaciated upland landscapes.</p> <p><b>1.14</b> Distinctive glaciated upland landscapes are the outcome of the interaction between physical and human processes.</p>	<p><b>4.7</b> River landscapes are influenced by human activity interacting with physical processes.</p> <p><b>4.8</b> Some rivers are more prone to flood than others and there is a variety of river management options.</p> <p>Not included, although links to <b>4.1a</b> (The role of geology, past tectonic and glacial processes (glacial erosion and deposition) in the development of upland (igneous and metamorphic rocks) and lowland (sedimentary rocks) landscapes.</p>
<p><b>Section A: Urban issues and challenges</b></p>	<p><b>Topic 4: Changing cities</b></p>	<p><b>Topic 3: Challenges of an urbanising world</b></p>
<p>A growing percentage of the world's population lives in urban areas.</p>	<p><b>4.1</b> Urbanisation is a global process.</p>	<p><b>3.1</b> The world is becoming increasingly urbanized.</p> <p><b>3.2</b> Urbanisation is a result of socio-economic processes and change.</p>

<p>Urban growth creates opportunities and challenges for cities in LICs and NEEs.</p> <p>Urban change in cities in the UK leads to a variety of social, economic and environmental opportunities and challenges.</p> <p>Urban sustainability requires management of resources and transport.</p>	<p><b>4.6</b> The context of the chosen developing country or emerging country city (case study) influences its functions and structure.</p> <p><b>4.6</b> The context of the chosen developing country or emerging country city influences its functions and structure.</p> <p><b>4.8</b> Rapid growth, within the chosen developing country or emerging country city, results in a number of challenges that need to be managed.</p> <p><b>4.2</b> The degree of urbanisation varies across the UK.</p> <p><b>4.3</b> The context of the chosen UK city influences its functions and structure.</p> <p><b>4.4</b> The chosen UK city is being changed by movements of people, employment and services.</p> <p><b>4.5</b> Globalisation and economic change create challenges for the chosen UK city that require long-term solutions.</p>	<p>Case Study: Why does quality of life vary so much within ONE megacity* in a developing country* OR emerging country*?</p> <p><b>3.4</b> The location and context of the chosen megacity influences its growth, function and structure.</p> <p><b>3.5</b> The megacity in the chosen country is growing rapidly.</p> <p><b>3.6</b> Rapid population growth creates opportunities and challenges for people living in the chosen megacity.</p> <p><b>3.7</b> Quality of life in the chosen megacity can be improved by different strategies for achieving sustainability.</p> <p>Component 2. Topic 5: the UK's evolving landscape. Case Study- Enquiry question: How is ONE major* UK city changing?</p> <p><b>5.3</b> The context of the city influences its functions and structure.</p> <p><b>5.4</b> The city changes through employment, services and the movement of people.</p> <p><b>5.5</b> The changing city creates challenges and opportunities.</p> <p><b>5.6</b> Ways of life in the city can be improved by different strategies.</p>
<p><b>Section B: The changing economic world</b></p>	<p><b>Topic 5: Global development</b></p>	<p><b>Topic 2: Development dynamics</b></p>
<p>There are global variations in economic development and quality of life.</p>	<p><b>5.2</b> The level of development varies globally.</p>	<p><b>2.2</b> There is global inequality in development and different theories in how it can be reduced.</p>

<p>Various strategies exist for reducing the global development gap.</p> <p>Some LICs and NEEs are experiencing rapid economic development which leads to significant social, environmental and cultural change.</p> <p>Major changes in the economy of the UK have affected, and will continue to affect, employment patterns and regional growth.</p>	<p><b>5.3</b> Uneven global development has had a range of consequences.</p> <p><b>5.4</b> A range of strategies has been used to try to address uneven development</p> <p>Case Study of development in a developing country* or an emerging country*</p> <p><b>5.5</b> The level of development of the chosen developing or emerging country is influenced by its location and context in the world.</p> <p><b>5.6</b> The interactions of economic, social and demographic processes influence the development of the chosen developing or emerging country.</p> <p><b>5.7</b> Changing geopolitics and technology impact on the chosen developing or emerging country.</p> <p><b>5.8</b> There are positive and negative impacts of rapid development for the people and environment of the chosen developing or emerging country.</p> <p><b>4.5</b> Globalisation and economic change create challenges for the chosen UK city that require long-term solutions.</p>	<p><b>2.3</b> Approaches to development vary in type and success.</p> <p>Case Study - Enquiry question: How is ONE of the world's emerging countries managing to develop?</p> <p><b>2.4</b> Development of the emerging country is influenced by its location and context in the world.</p> <p><b>2.5</b> Globalisation causes rapid economic change in the emerging country.</p> <p><b>2.6</b> Rapid economic growth results in significant positive and negative impacts on people and environment in the emerging country.</p> <p><b>2.7</b> Rapid economic development has changed the international role of the emerging country.</p> <p><b>5.2</b> The UK economy and society is increasingly linked and shaped by the wider world.</p>
<p><b>Section C: The challenge of resource management</b></p>	<p><b>Topic 6: Resource Management</b></p>	
<p><b>3.2.3.1 Resource management</b></p> <p>Food, water and energy are fundamental to human development.</p>	<p><b>6.1</b> A natural resource is any feature or part of the environment that can be used to meet human needs.</p>	<p>Not included, although links to topic <b>7.2</b> The biosphere is a vital life- support system for people as it provides both goods and services.</p>

<p>The changing demand and provision of resources in the UK create opportunities and challenges.</p> <p><b>3.2.3.2 Food</b></p> <p>Demand for food resources is rising globally but supply can be insecure, which may lead to conflict.</p> <p>Different strategies can be used to increase food supply.</p> <p><b>3.2.3.3 Water</b></p> <p>Demand for water resources is rising globally but supply can be insecure, which may lead to conflict.</p> <p>Different strategies can be used to increase water supply.</p> <p><b>3.2.3.4 Energy</b></p> <p>Demand for energy resources is rising globally but supply can be insecure, which may lead to conflict.</p>	<p><b>6.2</b> The patterns of the distribution and consumption of natural resources varies on a global and a national scale.</p> <p>Not included, although links to <b>6.4a</b> the composition of the UK's energy mix and <b>6.10a</b> Why the UK has water–supply problems (imbalances of the supply and demand for rainfall, seasonal imbalances and an ageing infrastructure: sewage and water pipes).</p> <p>Not included.</p> <p><b>Optional sub topic 6B: Water resource management.</b></p> <p><b>6.8</b> The supply of fresh water supply varies globally.</p> <p><b>6.9</b> There are differences between the water consumption patterns of developing countries and developed countries.</p> <p><b>6.10</b> Countries at different levels of development have water supply problems.</p> <p><b>6.12</b> Management and sustainable use of water resources are required at a range of spatial scales from local to international.</p> <p><b>Optional sub topic 6A: Energy resource management.</b></p> <p><b>6.4</b> To meet demand, countries use energy resources in different proportions. This is called the energy mix.</p>	<p>Not included, although links to topic <b>7.2</b> The biosphere is a vital life- support system for people as it provides both goods and services.</p> <p><b>Topic 9: Consuming energy resources</b></p> <p><b>9.2</b> Access to energy resources is not evenly distributed which has implications for people.</p>
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<p>Different strategies can be used to increase energy supply.</p>	<p><b>6.5</b> There is increasing demand for energy that is being met by renewable and non-renewable resources.</p> <p><b>6.6</b> Meeting the demands for energy resources can involve interventions by different interest groups.</p> <p><b>6.7</b> Management and sustainable use of energy resources are required at a range of spatial scales from local to international.</p>	<p><b>9.3</b> The global demand for oil is increasing, but supplies are unevenly available.</p> <p><b>9.4</b> The world's continuing reliance of fossil fuels increases pressure to exploit new areas.</p> <p><b>9.5</b> Reducing reliance on fossil fuels presents major technical challenges.</p>
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## Detailed mapping guide – What's new?

What is new in the Edexcel GCSE Geography A specification?	Our teaching and learning support
Overview of the geological variations within the UK (key ideas 1.1a, b and 1.2 a, and b)	<b>Topic Booklet - The UK's Changing Landscape</b> <b>Scheme of work - The UK's Changing Landscape</b>
The UK has a distinct climate which has changed over time (key ideas 2.4 a, b and c)	<b>Topic Booklet - Weather Hazards and Climate Change</b>
Drought - the causes, impacts and response (key ideas 2.7 and 2.8)	<b>Scheme of work – Weather Hazards and Climate Change</b>
Deciduous woodlands (key ideas 3.6 and 3.7)	<b>Topic Booklet - Ecosystems, Biodiversity and Management</b> <b>Scheme of work – Ecosystems, Biodiversity and Management</b>

What is new in the Edexcel GCSE Geography B specification?	Our teaching and learning support
4.1 Geology and past processes have influenced the physical landscape of the UK.	<b>Topic Booklet - The UK's Evolving Physical Landscape</b> <b>Scheme of work – The UK's Evolving Physical Landscape</b>
A number of physical and human processes work together to create distinct UK landscapes.	<b>Scheme of work - Development Dynamics</b> <b>Topic Booklet - Development Dynamics</b>
The taiga show different characteristics reflecting the more extreme and highly seasonal climate (key ideas 8.2a and b)	<b>Topic Booklet - Topics 7-8 People and Environment Issues</b>
The taiga is increasingly threatened by commercial development (key ideas 8.4a and b)	<b>Scheme of work – Topics 7-8 People and Environment Issues</b>
The taiga wilderness areas need to be protected from over-exploitation (key ideas 8.6a and b)	

