

Next steps!

If you are interested and would like to find out more:

- visit the Edexcel website (www.edexcel.com/gcse2009). There is a lot of useful information about what you will be studying and how you will be assessed
- talk to the Head of Geography at your school who will be able to describe the course in detail and advise you what you need to do next when it comes to your options
- ask students in Years 10 and 11 about how they enjoyed geography
- look at sources such as The National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com), BBC Bitesize (www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize) and the WorldMapper website (www.worldmapper.org).

Geography Question:

Which city in the Americas has the largest population?

Geography Answer:

(d) Mexico City

Edexcel

190 High Holborn, London WC1V 7BH
Online enquiries: www.edexcel.com/gcse2009-ask
Tel: **0844 576 0027**
Fax: **020 7190 5700**
www.edexcel.com

About Edexcel

Edexcel is a Pearson company and the UK's largest awarding body. We offer academic and vocational qualifications and testing to schools, colleges, employers and other places of learning here and in over 85 countries worldwide.

Edexcel Limited. Registered in England and Wales No. 4496750
Registered Office: 190 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7BH
VAT Reg No 780 0898 07.

Edexcel GCSE Geography B



STUDENT GUIDE

Is this the right subject for me?

If you enjoy:

- learning more about the world we live in
 - developing skills that will help you in other areas, such as IT and research
 - completing some of your own practical work away from the classroom
 - working in a team with other students
 - learning through investigating and doing, as well as listening and reading
- then this GCSE Geography B course is the ideal subject for you.

What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?

You will have learned a number of geographical skills and a body of geographical knowledge at Key Stage 3. These will be developed further during the GCSE course to give you a deeper understanding of the world. Much will be new but your previous study of geography will help prepare you to think like a geographer, so the development of new skills and concepts will be easy.

What will I learn?

The world is always changing. This specification gives you the chance to learn about those changes. There are four units.

Unit 1: Dynamic Planet

This unit will give you a sound understanding of important physical processes such as geological processes, ecosystems, the atmosphere and climate, and the hydrological cycle. These topics are interlinked and although you may study them separately the unit is designed to show you how physical geography combines to create a 'life support system' for the planet.

Unit 2: People and the Planet

This unit focuses on human geography. In a similar way to Unit 1, it links together to build an overall understanding of human geography. You will study how populations grow and change, where people live and work, and how they exploit and use resources.

Within Units 1 and 2 you will also be able to choose to study some topics in more depth such as rivers or coasts, cities or the countryside, development or economic geography and oceans or extreme climates.

Unit 3: Making Geographical Decisions

This unit is a decision-making exercise, where you study a specific topic, such as Antarctica, in detail. This is designed to teach you how to make decisions about a specific topic, based on the evidence studied.

Unit 4: Researching Geography

This will involve undertaking research, carrying out fieldwork and then writing it up. The research and fieldwork can be undertaken out of class, but the writing up will all be in class time.

How will I be assessed?

Units 1 and 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Examination (25% each unit)	Examination (25%)	Controlled Assessment (25%)
<p>The exam papers for these units are resource based. You will have maps, photographs and diagrams to help you answer the questions.</p> <p>Questions will range from short questions up to larger extended-writing questions.</p> <p>Higher and Foundation examination papers are available.</p>	<p><i>Making Geographical Decisions</i>, is a decision-making exercise based on pre-release resources. These will consist of a colour resource booklet on a geographical issue or location. Your teacher can work with you on the resources.</p> <p>Questions will assess your understanding of the resources in relation to environmental issues and sustainability.</p> <p>Higher and Foundation examination papers are available.</p>	<p><i>Researching Geography</i>, is the controlled assessment (coursework) unit. You will complete fieldwork and data collection for this unit, and analyse and write up your results in class.</p>

What can I do after I've completed the course?

Employers and universities value the broad range of transferable skills that geography delivers. Geography fits neatly with science, arts and humanities, and geographers also tend to have very good IT skills. A GCSE in Geography is excellent preparation for a career in planning, resource and countryside management, tourism and recreation and, environmental management and development. Many geographers also move into general management careers or branch out into journalism.

Geography Question:

Which city in the Americas has the largest population?

- (a) Sao Paulo
- (b) New York
- (c) Buenos Aires
- (d) Mexico City