

Edexcel GCSE Geography B

Comparing the 2012 AQA GCSE Geography B specification with the new 2016 Edexcel GCSE Geography B specification

This document is designed to help you compare the existing 2012 AQA GCSE Geography B specification with the new 2016 Edexcel GCSE Geography B specification.

The document gives an overview, at the topic level, of where the material covered in the existing AQA GCSE Geography B specification can be found in the new Edexcel 2016 Edexcel GCSE Geography B specification.

The following tables then give a more detailed breakdown of the Edexcel Geography B specification, and highlight areas of difference. These will help you to see where material that you currently teach is not present in the Edexcel specification; or where the Edexcel specification incorporates material that is new to you.

The 2016 Edexcel Geography B specification is split into three content components.

Component 1: Global Geographical Issues, 37.5% of the qualification

- Topic 1: Hazardous Earth
- Topic 2: Development dynamics
- Topic 3: Challenges of an urbanising world

Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes, 94 marks

Component 2: UK Geographical Issues, 37.5% of the qualification

- Topic 4: The UK's evolving physical landscape
- Topic 5: The UK's evolving human landscape
- Topic 6: Geographical investigations

Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes, 94 marks

Component 3: People and Environment Issues – Making Geographical Decisions, 25% of the qualification

- Topic 7: People and the biosphere
- Topic 8: Forests under threat
- Topic 9: Consuming energy resources

Written examination, 1 hour and 15 minutes, 64 marks

Our free support includes:

- a dedicated Geography Adviser, Jon Wolton
- additional GCSE Geography B specimen papers
- student exemplars with assessment commentary
- mock marking training
- Getting Started Guides
- course planners for a two-year and three-year GCSE
- schemes of work for every topic
- topic packs for every topic
- support with embedding high quality fieldwork

- Thinking Geographically: Maths and statistics – based on the proven approach of Pearson Maths
- Thinking Geographically: Literacy – based on the proven approach of Pearson English: Grammar for Writing
- Getting Ready to Teach training events.

Overview of content

2014 AQA GCSE Geography B	2016 Edexcel GCSE Geography B
Unit 1: Managing places in the 21st century	Topics 3, 4 and 5
Why are coastal areas a valuable economic and environmental resource?	4.4 a.
How have physical processes created the coastal landforms that exist today?	4.3 a. b. and c.
Why are decisions made to manage coastal areas?	4.5 b.
How can the management of coastal areas be increasingly sustainable?	4.5 b.
How can urban growth create challenges?	3.1 a. 3.6 b. 3.7 a.
How are inequalities being reduced in urban areas in developed countries?	5.5 a. and b.
What are the opportunities and challenge created by urbanisation in developing countries?	3.6 a. b. and c. 5.4 a. and b.
How can urban living be increasingly sustainable?	N/A
Unit 2: Hostile world and Investigating the shrinking world	Topics 1, 2, 6, 7 and 8
What are the causes and effects of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions and how do people prepare for and respond to them?	1.7, 1.8, 1.9
What are the causes and effects of tropical storms and how do people prepare for and respond to them?	1.4, 1.5, 1.6
What are the causes and effects of wildfires and how do people prepare for and respond to them?	N/A
What is the hot desert environment and how do people interact with it?	N/A
What is the tropical rainforest environment and how do people interact with it?	7.1 8.1, 8.3, 8.5
What is the cold environment and how do people interact with it?	N/A
Why has industry become increasingly global?	2.4
What opportunities does the globalisation of industry create?	2.4
How does industrial growth create challenges?	2.8
Can industrial development be appropriate and sustainable?	N/A
How has the global tourist industry grown?	N/A
What opportunities does the growth of the tourism industry create?	N/A
How does tourism create challenges and conflicts?	N/A

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How can the tourist industry promote sustainable development?	N/A
Unit 3: Local investigation including fieldwork and Geographical issue investigation	Topic 6

In-depth comparison

2016 Edexcel GCSE Geography B	2014 AQA GCSE Geography B	What's similar	What's new for you	What you no longer teach
Topic 1: Hazardous Earth	Unit 2 Section A: Hostile world. Living with natural hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The damaging effects of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. ✓ The causes of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. ✓ Reducing the damaging effects of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. ✓ The damaging effects of tropical storms. ✓ The causes of tropical storms. ✓ Reducing the damaging effects of tropical storms. ✓ Tropical storms could become more frequent and their distribution may change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New content on weather and climate, which is a DfE requirement • The global atmospheric circulation and how circulation cells and ocean currents transfer and redistribute heat energy around the Earth. • How global atmospheric circulation determines the location of arid (high pressure) and high rainfall (low pressure) areas. • The natural causes of climate change and how they explain past climate change events: asteroid collisions, orbital changes, volcanic activity, variations in solar output. • Evidence for natural climate change (ice cores, tree rings, historical sources) and how it is used to reconstruct glacial and interglacial climate during the Quaternary and UK climate since Roman times to the present day. • How human activities (industry, transport, energy, farming) produce greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane) that cause the enhanced greenhouse effect. • Evidence for how human activity is causing climate change (sea level rise and warming oceans, global temperature rise, declining Arctic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Describe the advantages of living in areas at risk from earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Include geothermal energy, tourism, and fertile soils. Explain why people choose to stay in, or are unable to move away from an area at risk from earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. × Describe the effects of wildfires on people and the environment. × Describe the climatic features found in areas where wildfires are common and how these lead to the formation of wildfires. Using an example, explore the extent to which wildfires are 'natural' hazards. × Describe strategies and methods used to reduce the damaging effects of wildfires. Include evacuation, education and the role of the emergency services. × Explain why the distribution and frequency of wildfires may change. Include the effects of increasing numbers of people living in and using semi-arid areas, increased frequency of drought due to climate change.

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			<p>ice, increased extreme weather events) and the possible consequences on people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The range of projections for global temperature change and sea level rise in the future, including physical process and human reasons for uncertainty about those projections. 	<p>Explain why areas in which wildfires occur should be protected.</p>
Topic 2: Development dynamics	Unit 2 Section B: Investigating the shrinking world	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Explore changing patterns of trade, including the ideas of fair and unfair trade. ✓ Investigate industrial development as a way of reducing the development gap including the possible economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits in an economically developing area. ✓ Investigate the impacts of changing industrial structure over time in an area which has experienced recent industrial growth. ✓ Use an example to investigate the advantages and disadvantages caused by the growth of one TNC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New content about global economic development issues, which is a DfE requirement • How countries at different levels of development (developing, emerging and developed) have differences in their demographic data (fertility rates death rates, population structures, maternal and infant mortality rates). • The nature and extent of global inequality, and how this has changed over time. • How Rostow's modernisation theory and Frank's dependency theory can be used to explain how and why countries develop over time. • Characteristics of top-down and bottom-up strategies in terms of their scale, aims, funding and technology. • Advantages and disadvantages of different approaches to development: Non-governmental organisation-led (NGO-led) intermediate technology, NGO funded large infrastructure and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × To what extent do we produce and consume globally? × Investigate one Transnational Corporation (TNC) to show its global operations. × Use contemporary examples to investigate changing industrial location factors. × Explore a range of factors, including increased mobility, changing markets, relative labour costs, political influences and developments in technology. × Industrial investment in areas of the developed world creates new opportunities. × Investigate the range of economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits of industrial investment. Include a study of one location in a more developed country. × Investigate the growth of science and research parks in the developed world. × Understand that countries vary

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			<p>investment by foreign TNCs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why some countries have benefited from the processes of globalisation more than others. • The outcomes of globalisation (global shift manufacturing industry and outsourcing of services) for emerging and developed countries' employment structures (Clark Fisher model). • How global trade patterns (terms of trade, commodity dependency and prices), debt and low human development (education, healthcare, gender inequality) can be obstacles to development. • How the physical environment (relief, physical isolation, climate, natural resources) can help or hinder economic development and how development impacts on the environment (air and water pollution, greenhouse gases). • How is ONE of the world's emerging countries managing to develop? • Globalisation causes rapid economic change in the emerging country. • The role of globalisation (advances in communications and transport technology, TNCs and outsourcing) and government policy (education and infrastructure investment, pro-FDI policy) in the development of the chosen country. • How rapid economic change has 	<p>in their levels of development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Explore the range of socio-economic, cultural and environmental challenges and conflicts caused by the development of industry in two places at different stages of economic development. × Investigate the impacts of the decline of industry in one location. × Explore how management and planning help to make large-scale industrial development increasingly sustainable. × Investigate the effect of a management strategy. × The changing pattern of tourist destinations around the world. × Explore how different places and environments provide opportunities for tourist activities. × The development of mass commercial tourism and specialist tourism. Explore the development of package holiday and short break destinations and the growth of long-haul locations. × Explore a range of social and economic factors, including greater wealth, mobility and leisure time and changes in lifestyles.

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			<p>contributed to demographic change (fertility and death rates), caused urbanisation (rural urban migration, city growth) and created different regions with different socio-economic characteristics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive and negative impacts of economic development and globalisation on different age and gender groups. • Impacts of economic development and globalisation on the environment (air, water and land pollution, greenhouse gases) at a variety of scales (human health and global climate change). • Rapid economic development has changed the international role of the emerging country. • How rapid economic development has changed the geopolitical influence (regional influence, role in international organisations) and relationships with the EU and USA. • Conflicting views of the costs and benefits of changing international relations and the role of foreign investment (TNCs) in the economic development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × The role of technology. Use an example to investigate the growth of a global tourism company. × Investigate the range of economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits tourism brings to established tourist locations. Include a study of one established tourist location in a more developed country. × Understand that countries vary in their levels of development. × Use a range of economic and social indicators of development and evaluate the effectiveness of different indicators including GNI, Life Expectancy and the HDI. × Investigate tourism as a way of reducing the development gap including the possible economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits in a developing long-haul location. × Explore the range of social, cultural and environmental challenges caused by the development of tourism, including the study of two places at different stages of economic development. × The impacts of the decline of tourism in one named location. × Disadvantages of tourism as a way of closing the

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				<p>development gap, including the economic challenges in a developing long-haul location.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Explore how different tourist activities can conflict with each other and local communities. × An investigation of the conflicts in one tourist honeypot. × Impacts on the global environment through increased international travel. × Use an example to show how ecotourism helps to manage the impacts of tourism in a sustainable way. × Use an example of a tourist honeypot to: describe how management and planning methods are being used to reduce conflict. × Investigate the effectiveness of one management strategy.
Topic 3: Challenges of an urbanising world	Unit 1: The urban environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The world is increasingly urban. ✓ Urban areas face increasing threats from environmental hazards. ✓ The increasing need to manage the movement of people and traffic in urban areas. ✓ Socio-economic inequalities exist in urban areas. ✓ Investigate one urban area to consider the environmental 	<p>New content about cities and urban society, which is a DfE requirement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why urban economies are different in the developing, emerging and developed countries (formal versus informal employment, relative importance of economic sectors, working conditions). • How urban population numbers, distribution and spatial growth change over time (urbanisation, suburbanisation, de-industrialisation, counter-urbanisation and in some 	

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		<p>hazards (pollution) linked to urban/industrial concentrations and the challenges these present.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Use an example(s) to describe and explain the different methods being used to manage people movement and traffic in urban areas. ✓ Why does quality of life vary so much within ONE megacity in a developing country OR emerging country? ✓ Reasons for past and present trends in population growth (rates of natural increase, rural to urban migration, economic investment and growth) for the megacity. Advantages and disadvantages of city-wide government (topdown) strategies for making the megacity more sustainable (managing water supply, waste disposal, transport and air quality). ✓ Advantages and disadvantages of community and NGO-led bottom-up strategies for making the megacity more sustainable (city housing, health and education services in the megacity). ✓ How population growth has affected the pattern of spatial growth and changing urban functions and land use. ✓ The opportunities for people (access to resources and employment) living in the 	<p>cases, regeneration).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characteristics of different urban land uses (commercial, industrial, residential) and the factors that influence land-use type (accessibility, availability, cost, planning regulations). • The location and context of the chosen megacity influences its growth, function and structure. • The pattern of residential areas of extreme wealth contrasted with slums and squatter settlements, and reasons for differences in quality of life within the megacity and the political and economic challenges of managing the megacity. 	

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		<p>megacity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The challenges for people living in the megacity caused by rapid population growth (housing shortages, the development of squatter and slum settlements, inadequate water supply and waste disposal, poor employment conditions, and limited service provision and traffic congestion). ✓ Urban regeneration strategies are being used in some areas to create socio-economic opportunities and improve environments. ✓ The growth of urban areas in developing countries is a result of natural increase and migration. ✓ Urban growth in developing countries can create opportunities and challenges. ✓ Urban areas in developing countries are responding to the challenges of growth in different ways. ✓ Use an example to show how appropriate technology helps to manage the impact of industrial change in a sustainable way. 		
Topic 4: The UK's evolving physical landscape	Unit 1: The coastal environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Coastal areas are multi-use areas which provide opportunities for a number of human activities. ✓ There are frequently conflicting demands on coastal areas and this creates a need for management 	<p>New content about geomorphology of the UK and overview of UK landscapes, which is a DfE requirement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geology and past processes have influenced the physical landscape of the UK. 	

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		<p>strategies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Weathering and erosion are important physical processes in coastal areas. ✓ Physical processes, rock type and structure operate to create distinctive coastal landforms. ✓ The movement and deposition of beach material the UK's main rock types: creates distinctive coastal landforms. ✓ Some areas are protected from the effect of coastal processes. ✓ There are different methods that can be used to protect coastlines from the effects of natural processes. ✓ Protecting coastal areas from the increasing threat of rising sea levels will require the development of different approaches. ✓ The sustainability of coastal areas requires the whole of the coastal zone to be managed effectively. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Characteristics and distribution of sedimentary (chalk, carboniferous limestone, clay), igneous (granite), metamorphic (schists, slates). • Why distinctive upland and lowland landscapes result from the interaction of physical processes: weathering and climatological, post-glacial river and slope processes. • Why distinctive landscapes result from human activity (agriculture, forestry, settlement) over time. • How UK climate (seasonality, storm frequency, prevailing winds), marine (destructive waves) and sub-aerial processes (mass movement, weathering) are important in coastal landscapes of erosion as well as the rate of coastal retreat. • Why there are increasing risks from coastal flooding (consequences of climate change on marine erosion and deposition, including an increased frequency of storms and rising sea level) and the threats to people and environment. • New DfE requirement to study two contrasting UK landscapes 	

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinctive river landscapes have different characteristics formed by interacting physical processes. • River landscapes are influenced by human activity interacting with physical processes. • Some rivers are more prone to flood than others and there is a variety of river management options. 	
Topic 5: The UK's evolving human landscape	Unit 1: The urban environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Socio-economic inequalities exist in urban areas. ✓ Urban regeneration strategies are being used in some areas to create socio-economic opportunities and improve environments. 	<p>New requirement to study the geography of the UK, which is a DfE requirement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why are places and people changing in the UK? • Differences between regions (population density and age structure, economic activities and settlement) and how UK and EU government policies have attempted to reduce them (via enterprise zones, investment in transport infrastructure, regional development). • Why internal migration over the past 50 years has altered the population geography of the UK (numbers, distribution, age structure) and how UK and EU immigration policy has contributed to increasing ethnic and cultural diversity. • Why the decline in primary and secondary sectors and the rise of the tertiary and quaternary sectors has altered economic and employment structure in contrasting regions of the UK. 	

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why globalisation, free-trade polices (UK and EU) and privatisation has increased foreign direct investment (FDI) and the role of TNCs in the UK economy. • The inner-city area has contrasting land-use patterns and characteristics. • The inner-city area has experienced economic and population change. • Rural settlements in the UK have contrasting characteristics. • Rural settlements face economic and social changes. • Rural areas face a number of challenges that can be addressed through a range of strategies. 	
Topic 6: Geographical investigations	Unit 3: Local investigation including fieldwork and Geographical issue investigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Introduction ✓ Methodology ✓ Sorting of data and other evidence ✓ Presentation of findings ✓ Description, interpretation and analysis of findings ✓ Conclusions ✓ Evaluation 		
Topic 7: People and the biosphere	Unit 2: The challenge of extreme environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Where are the tropical rainforest environments? ✓ The nature of the tropical rainforest environment and the reasons for its formation. ✓ The opportunities and challenges of development in the tropical rainforest environment. ✓ Managing the tropical rainforest 	<p>New content about global ecosystems and the biosphere, which is a DfE requirement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local factors (altitude, rock and soil type, drainage) can alter the biome distribution locally and how the biotic (flora, fauna) and abiotic (soils, rock, water, atmosphere) components of biomes interact. • How the biosphere provides resources 	

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		environment.	<p>for indigenous and local people (food, medicine, building materials and fuel resources) but is also increasingly exploited commercially for energy, water and mineral resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the biosphere regulates the composition of the atmosphere, maintains soil health and regulates water within the hydrological cycle, providing globally important services. • The global and regional trends increasing demand for food, energy and water resources (population growth, rising affluence, urbanisation and industrialisation) and theories on the relationships between population and resources (Malthus and Boserup). 	
Topic 8: Forests under threat	Unit 2: The challenge of extreme environments		<p>New content about global ecosystems and the biosphere, which is a DfE requirement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How tropical rainforest plants are adapted to their climate (stratified layers, buttress roots, drip tips) and how animals are also adapted. • Why tropical rainforests have a very high rate of nutrient cycling which, in turn, supports high levels of biodiversity and complex food webs. • How taiga plants are adapted to the climatic conditions (cone shaped, needles, simple structure) and why many animals are migratory. • Why the taiga has lower productivity, with less active nutrient cycling and much lower levels of biodiversity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Describe the global distribution of areas of hot desert. × Explain the factors affecting temperature and rainfall in hot desert areas and how this affects vegetation. Explain the idea of the spreading desert. × Study an example of an area on the fringe of a hot desert, which is at risk from desertification. Include the effects of climate change and population pressure: overgrazing, overcultivation and soil erosion. × Describe strategies and methods used to reduce the risk of desertification in countries with a low level of

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why climate change is an indirect threat to the health of tropical rainforests (ecosystem stress, drought). • The taiga is increasingly threatened by commercial development. • Direct threats from logging for softwood, pulp and paper production and indirect threats resulting from the exploitation of minerals, fossil fuels and HEP potential. • How acid precipitation, forest fires, pests and diseases and forest fires contribute to a loss of biodiversity. • The taiga wilderness areas need to be protected from over-exploitation. 	<p>economic development. Include water and soil management, conservation, and use of appropriate, sustainable technology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Describe the global distribution of polar and tundra environments. × Explain the factors affecting temperature and precipitation in polar and tundra environments and how these affect vegetation. Explain the effect of global warming on cold environments. Study an example of an area where glaciers are retreating or ice shelves are shrinking. × Describe the ways in which people have exploited cold environments. Include Antarctica and oil in Alaska. What does the future hold for these fragile, cold environments? × Describe strategies and methods used to reduce problems in cold environments. Include the use of technology, the role of governments, international agreements and conservation groups. Explain why cold environments should be protected.
Topic 9: Consuming			New content about consuming and managing resources, which is a DfE	

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energy resources			<p>requirement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy resources can be classified in different ways and their extraction and use has environmental consequences. • Access to energy resources is not evenly distributed which has implications for people. • The global demand for oil is increasing, but supplies are unevenly available. The world's continuing reliance of fossil fuels increases pressure to exploit new areas. • Reducing reliance on fossil fuels presents major technical challenges. • Attitudes to energy and environmental issues are changing. 	