

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



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OCR B	Edexcel A	Edexcel B
Paper 1: Our natural world Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global hazards • Changing climate • Distinctive landscapes • Sustaining ecosystems • Fieldwork • Geographical skills 	Paper 1: The physical environment Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The changing landscapes of the UK • Weather hazards and climate change • Ecosystems, biodiversity and management • Integrated skills 	Paper 1: Global geographical issues Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazardous Earth • Development dynamics • Challenges of an urbanising world • Integrated skills
Assessment overview 1 hour and 15 minutes 70 marks 35% of GCSE	Assessment overview 1 hour 30 minutes 94 marks 37.5% of GCSE	Assessment overview 1 hour 30 minutes 94 marks 37.5% of GCSE
Paper 2: People and Society Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban futures • Dynamic development • UK in the 21st Century • Fieldwork • Geographical skills 	Paper 2: The human environment Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing cities • Global development • Resource management • Integrated skills 	Paper 2: UK geographical issues Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK's evolving physical landscape • UK's evolving human landscape • Integrated skills • Geographical investigations – fieldwork
Assessment overview 1 hour and 15 minutes 70 marks 35% of GCSE	Assessment overview 1 hour and 30 minutes 94 marks 37.5% of GCSE	Assessment overview 1 hour and 30 minutes 94 marks 37.5% of GCSE
Paper 3: Geographical exploration Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographical skills • Decision making exercise 	Paper 3: Geographical investigations Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographical investigations – physical fieldwork • Geographical investigations – human fieldwork • UK challenges 	Paper 3: Decision making exercise Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People and the biosphere • Forests under threat • Consuming energy resources • Integrated skills
Assessment overview 1 hour and 30 minutes 60 marks 30% of GCSE	Assessment overview 1 hour and 30 minutes 64 marks 25% of GCSE	Assessment overview 1 hour and 30 minutes 64 marks 25% of GCSE

Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Geography A **Key similarities**

- The specification content has a thematic approach, with content organised by physical and human environments.
- A lot of the content is similar, for example; weather hazards, climate change, coasts, rivers, ecosystems and drought.
- 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.
- Fieldwork will be assessed in Paper 3.
- Integrated skills to be assessed across all three papers.
- A synoptic element in Paper 3, the UK challenges question in the Edexcel specification will always be based on one of four prescribed people-environment challenges that we face in the UK whereas the DME in the OCR specification can be drawn from any topics in the specification.
- Three case studies in similar contexts; a major city in a developing or emerging country, development issues within a developing or emerging country and major UK city.

Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Geography B **Key similarities**

- A lot of the content is similar, for example; tectonic hazards, weather hazards, climate change, ecosystems, rainforests, coasts, and rivers.
- The specification content is framed around enquiry questions.
- 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 decision making exercise 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 the DME in the OCR specification can draw from any topic in the specification.
- Geographical skills that are integrated into all aspects of the subject.
- Three case studies in similar contexts; a mega city in a developing or emerging country, development issues within an emerging country and a major UK city.

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.

