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Key discrepancies between the current International GCSE geography and new Certificate in geography specifications and specimen exam papers

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- Time allowed for the specimen paper has increased from 2.75hrs to 3 hrs.
- The specimen paper has increased from 150 total marks to 180 total marks.
- The specification and specimen paper has increased from three Sections (A, B & C) to four Sections (A, B, C & D).
- A new Section C (*'Practical geographical enquiry'*) has been created in the specification and specimen paper devoted to the planning, collection, analysis and evaluation of information and data using fieldwork and practical skills. Questions in this new Section cover the complete investigation process and replace the fieldwork questions originally asked in Sections A and B of the specimen paper (which covered parts of the investigation process), however the questions still draw on selected topics in Sections A and B. The new Section C represents a more thorough *assessment* of the investigation process, but not any more demand, in respect of *delivery and learning* of fieldwork and investigation skills than the International GCSE.
- The mark pattern and total marks for each Section in the specimen paper have been revised (to reflect the removal/replacement of some questions) and standardised between Sections to ensure comparability.
- Question stem verbs (eg 'Explain..', 'Describe..') have been standardised/revised to ensure full accessibility/good inclination of demand through out each Section of the specimen paper and to ensure paper comparability.
- The specification content and guidance have been updated and clarified in places, however the purpose of the qualification, topics and their essence remain unchanged between the International GCSE and the Certificate.

NEW International GCSE in geography	Current International GCSE in geography
<p><b>Overview of content</b></p> <p>The Level 1/Level 2 Certificate has four sections. Sections A, B and D contain optional topics and Section C draws on the practical geographical enquiry skills that underpin the study of Sections A and B.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Section A — The Natural Environment</b> Complete <b>two</b> of the three topics:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. River environments</li> <li>2. Coastal environments</li> <li>3. Hazardous environments</li> </ol> </li> <li>• <b>Section B — People and their Environments</b> Complete <b>two</b> of the three topics:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Economic activity and energy</li> <li>5. Ecosystems and rural environments</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Overview of content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Section A — The natural environment and people</b> Complete two of the three topics:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. River environments</li> <li>2. Coastal environments</li> <li>3. Hazardous environments</li> </ol> </li> <li>• <b>Section B — People and their environments</b> Complete two of the three topics:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Economic activity and energy</li> <li>5. Ecosystems and rural environments</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

<p>6. Urban environments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Section C — Practical Geographical Enquiry</b></li> </ul> <p>The development of practical geographical enquiry skills related to the investigation of each <b>selected</b> topic from Sections A and B.</p> <p><b>Section D — Global Issues</b></p> <p>Complete <b>one</b> of the three topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Fragile environments</li> <li>8. Globalisation and migration</li> <li>9. Development and human welfare</li> </ol>	<p>6. Urban environments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Section C — Global issues</b></li> </ul> <p>Complete one of the three topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Fragile environments</li> <li>8. Globalisation and migration</li> <li>9. Development and human welfare</li> </ol>
<p><b>Overview of content</b></p> <p>Externally-assessed through a 3-hour examination paper, set and marked by Edexcel</p> <p>Availability: June series First assessment: June 2014</p> <p>The single tier of entry will contain a variety of question types, such as multiple-choice questions, short and extended answer questions, graphical and data questions and practical enquiry questions</p> <p>The total number of marks available is 180</p> <p>The paper will be a question and answer booklet and candidates have to answer:</p> <p>two questions from a choice of three in Section A two questions from a choice of three in Section B two questions; one question from a choice of two, related to Topics 1 to 3 and one question from a choice of two, related to Topics 4 to 6 in Section C one question from a choice of three in Section D.</p> <p>Each question in Sections A, B and C is worth 25 marks, each question in Section D is worth 30 marks.</p>	<p><b>Overview of content</b></p> <p>The assessment of this qualification is through a 2-hour and 45-minute examination paper, set and marked by Edexcel.</p> <p>The single tier of entry will contain a variety of questions types, such as multiple-choice questions, short and extended answer questions, graphical and data questions and fieldwork questions.</p> <p>The total number of marks available is 150.</p> <p>The paper will be a question and answer booklet and students have to answer:</p> <p>two questions from a choice of three in Section A two questions from a choice of three in Section B one question from a choice of three in Section C.</p> <p>Each question is worth 30 marks.</p>