

International GCSE

Geography (9–1) (Modular)

Specification

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Geography (Modular) (4XGE1)

First teaching September 2023

First examination June 2024

First certification August 2025

Issue 1



About Pearson

We are the world's leading learning company operating in countries all around the world. We provide content, assessment and digital services to learners, educational institutions, employers, governments and other partners globally. We are committed to helping equip learners with the skills they need to enhance their employability prospects and to succeed in the changing world of work. We believe that wherever learning flourishes so do people.

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Publication code: GQ000017

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1 About this specification

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Geography (Modular) is part of a suite of International GCSE (Modular) qualifications offered by Pearson.

This qualification is not accredited or regulated by any UK regulatory body.

This specification includes the following key features.

Structure

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Geography (Modular) is a modular qualification. All units are available in the June and November exam series and can be sat in any order or resat. A cash-in code must be used to obtain an overall grade for the qualification.

Content

The content is relevant, up-to-date, engaging and appropriate for an international audience.

Assessment

It encourages practical enquiry skills that underpin knowledge and understanding of geography. All assessments in the modular route are designed to be at the same standard, and there is no step up in difficulty between Unit 1 and Unit 2.

Approach

It fosters independent learning, develops critical thinking skills and encourages the use of real-life examples.

Specification updates

This specification is Issue 1 and is valid for first teaching from September 2023, with first assessment from June 2024, first cash-in in June 2025 and first certification from August 2025. If there are any significant changes to the specification, we will inform centres in writing. Changes will also be posted on our website.

For more information, please visit qualifications.pearson.com.

Using this specification

This specification gives teachers guidance and encourages effective delivery of the qualification. The following information will help you get the most out of the content and guidance.

Compulsory content: as a minimum, all the detailed content must be taught. The word 'including' in the content specifies the detail of what must be covered.

Examples: throughout the content, we have given examples of what could be covered or what might support teaching and learning. It is important to note that examples are for illustrative purposes only and centres can use other examples. We have included examples that are easily understood and recognised by international centres.

Assessments: use a range of material and are not limited to the examples given. Teachers should deliver the qualification using a good range of examples to support the assessment of the content.

Depth and breadth of content: teachers should use the full range of content and all the assessment objectives provided in *Section 2: Geography content*.

Qualification aims

The aims of this qualification are to enable learners to:

- build on the foundation of geographical knowledge and apply it
- actively engage in the process of geographical enquiry to develop as effective and independent learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds
- develop their knowledge and understanding of geographical concepts and appreciate the relevance of these concepts to our changing world
- develop a framework of spatial awareness in which to appreciate the importance of the location of places and environments at a range of scales
- appreciate that people have different views of, and attitudes to, the world, its environments and its issues
- develop and apply practical geographical enquiry skills
- undertake geographical investigations that include both primary and secondary data collection, presentation and analysis, drawing conclusions, and evaluating geographical investigation
- develop and apply their learning to the real world through fieldwork
- develop their awareness of global issues and recognise the challenges of moving towards a sustainable future.

Why choose Pearson Edexcel qualifications?

Pearson – the world’s largest education company

Edexcel academic qualifications are from Pearson, the UK’s largest awarding organisation. With over 3.4 million learners studying our academic and vocational qualifications worldwide, we offer internationally recognised qualifications to schools, colleges and employers globally.

Pearson is recognised as the world’s largest education company, allowing us to drive innovation and provide comprehensive support for Pearson Edexcel learners in acquiring the knowledge and skills they need for progression in study, work and life.

A heritage you can trust

The background to Pearson becoming the UK’s largest awarding organisation began in 1836, when a royal charter gave the University of London its first powers to conduct exams and confer degrees on its learners. With over 150 years of international education experience, Edexcel qualifications have firm academic foundation, built on the traditions and rigour associated with Britain’s educational system.

Results you can trust

Pearson’s leading online marking technology has been shown to produce exceptionally reliable results, demonstrating that at every stage, Pearson Edexcel qualifications maintain the highest standards.

Why choose Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Geography (Modular)?

We have listened to feedback from all parts of the international school and language teaching community, including a large number of teachers. We have made changes that will engage international learners and give them skills that will support progression to further study of geography, and to enhance their educational or employment prospects. This qualification enables learners to explore the world, the challenges it faces and their own place in it, and to help prepare them to succeed in their chosen pathway.

The content and assessment approach for this qualification has been designed to maintain the rigorous standards of all Pearson Edexcel qualifications and meet learner needs in the following ways.

Modular structure

The modular assessment structure offers learners the flexibility to sit examinations when they are ready and provides opportunities to resit individual unit assessments before receiving an overall qualification grade.

Two-unit assessment

A two-unit model allows learners to focus on physical and human geography. The qualification will test knowledge and understanding, as well as analytical, evaluation and fieldwork skills in both papers.

Concepts and content

The content in both Unit 1: Physical Geography and Unit 2: Human Geography is engaging and accessible for all learners. The material is appropriate and relevant for progression, building understanding and awareness of a range of geographical concepts and skills, including fieldwork.

Localised content

Teachers can localise the fieldwork and content covered to suit the needs and interests of a range of international learners in different regions.

Clear and straightforward question papers

Our question papers are clear and accessible for learners of all ability ranges. A range of question styles will be used. Our mark schemes are straightforward so that the assessment requirements are clear.

Broad and deep development of skills

The design of this International GCSE (Modular) aims to extend learners' knowledge by broadening and deepening skills; for example, learners will:

- develop and apply a holistic range of knowledge and understanding of geographical concepts and skills, including fieldwork
- present and analyse data, draw conclusions and evaluate information from different sources
- develop awareness of global issues and challenges and that, in moving towards a sustainable future, people have different views and attitudes to the environment.

Progression

International GCSE (Modular) qualifications enable successful progression to Level 3 qualifications (such as the International A Level in Geography) and beyond, in geography and other subjects. We have consulted with International A Level and GCE A Level teachers as well as higher education professionals to validate this qualification, including content, skills and assessment structure.

Supporting you in planning and implementing this qualification

Planning

- Our *Getting Started Guide* gives you an overview of Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Geography (Modular) to help you understand the content and assessment, and what this means for you and your learners.
- We will provide you with an editable scheme of work and course planner for each qualification offering a modular route, enabling you to adapt these resources to suit your needs.

Teaching and learning

- Our skills maps will highlight opportunities for learners to develop skills that are directly and indirectly assessed.
- Print and digital learning and teaching resources promote any time, any place learning to improve learners' motivation and encourage new ways of working. These will be mapped to our modular schemes of work to ensure this qualification is fully supported.

Preparing for exams

We will also provide you with a range of resources to help you prepare your learners for the assessments, including:

- past papers for the qualification's linear counterpart to use as lesson resources or for mock examinations
- examiner reports with learner responses and examiner commentaries following each examination series.

ResultsPlus

ResultsPlus provides the most detailed analysis available of your learners' exam performance. It can help you identify the topics and skills where further learning would benefit your learners.

examWizard

This is an included online resource designed to support learners and teachers with examination preparation and assessment.

Training events

In addition to online training, we host a series of training events for teachers to deepen their understanding of our qualifications.

Get help and support

Our subject advisor ensures that you receive help and guidance from us. You can email our subject advisor at TeachingGeography@pearson.com. You can also sign up to receive [subject advisor updates](#) or contact us using our [support portal](#).

2 Qualification at a glance

Qualification overview

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Geography (Modular) consists of two mandatory units.

It is a modular qualification in which unit assessments can be sat and resat in any order.

Assessments must be cashed in to obtain a final grade for the qualification.

Content and assessment overview

Unit 1: Physical Geography	Unit code: 4WGE1/01*
Externally assessed Written examination: 1 hour and 10 minutes Availability: June and November 70 marks	40% of the total International GCSE (Modular)
Content overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">• River environments• Coastal environments• Hazardous environments including fieldwork from one of these topics.	
Assessment overview Section A Learners choose two out of three questions on: river environments, coastal environments, hazardous environments. Section B Learners choose one out of three fieldwork-related questions on: river environments, coastal environments, hazardous environments. The questions in Unit 1 assessment are a combination of multiple-choice, data-response, short open-response and extended open-response questions.	

* See *Appendix 1: Codes* for a description of this code and all the other codes relevant to this qualification.

Unit 2: Human Geography	Unit code: 4WGE2/01*
<p>Externally assessed</p> <p>Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes</p> <p>Availability: June and November</p> <p>105 marks</p>	<p>60% of the total International GCSE (Modular)</p>
<p>Content summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic activity and energy • Rural environments • Urban environments <p>including fieldwork from one of these topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global issues (Fragile environments and climate change, Globalisation and migration, Development and human welfare) 	
<p>Assessment overview</p> <p>Section A</p> <p>Learners choose two out of three questions on: economic activity and energy, rural environments, urban environments.</p> <p>Section B</p> <p>Learners choose one out of three fieldwork-related questions on: economic activity and energy, rural environments, urban environments.</p> <p>Section C</p> <p>Learners choose one out of three questions on: fragile environments and climate change, globalisation and migration, development and human welfare.</p> <p>The questions in Unit 2 assessment are a combination of multiple-choice, data-response, short open-response and extended open-response questions.</p>	

* See *Appendix 1: Codes* for a description of this code and all the other codes relevant to this qualification.

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Content highlights

The specification content for each topic is divided into the following sections.

Key ideas

Each topic is divided into a number of key ideas that give a focus to the content.

Detailed content

Each key idea is broken down into detailed content that specifies what must be studied. Examination questions will be based on this content.

Case studies and located examples

All learners must study four in-depth case studies:

- In Unit 1 assessment, Section A: a case study of a developed country* and a developing country* or an emerging country*.
- In Unit 2 assessment, Section A: a case study of a developed country* and a developing country* or an emerging country*.

In addition to four in-depth case studies, throughout the course it is a requirement to draw on located examples from developing, emerging and developed countries. Any located examples must be set within the broader contextual knowledge of the country.

In order to make it clear where a located example should be developed, a 🌐 symbol has been used.

Programmes of study could identify located examples within the countries selected for the four in-depth case studies.

Geographical skills

Throughout their course of study, learners are required to develop a range of geographical skills, including quantitative skills. These skills may be assessed across any of the examined papers. The full list of geographical skills is provided in *Appendix 4: Geographical skills*.

Some geographical skills may only be assessed in specific topics. Examples of how these skills could be used in particular topics are signposted in the detailed content and listed in the Integrated skills sections after each topic.

Abbreviations used

GDP – gross domestic product

GIS – geographic information system

IGO – intergovernmental organisation

NGO – non-governmental organisation

TNC – transnational corporation

* See *Appendix 2: Definitions* for the definitions of a developed, developing and emerging country.

Unit 1: Physical Geography

Externally assessed

1.1 Content description

This unit brings together physical geography and people-environment processes and interactions. The examination is divided into two sections.

Section A – learners choose **two** out of three topics from: river environments, coastal environments, hazardous environments.

- Topic 1: River environments – features of the global hydrological cycle (including drainage basins), the physical processes that give rise to distinct river landforms and detailed case studies of river management in a developed **and** a developing **or** emerging country.
- Topic 2: Coastal environments – the processes that give rise to characteristic coastal landforms, threats facing coastal ecosystems and detailed case studies of coastal management in a developed **and** a developing **or** emerging country.
- Topic 3: Hazardous environments – the characteristics and distribution of different types of natural hazards, the measurement and impacts of hazards, and detailed case studies of the management of an earthquake in a developed **and** a developing **or** emerging country.

Section B – learners are required to undertake a geographical investigation involving fieldwork and research, in **one** natural environment. In this paper, learners choose **one** out of three fieldwork-related questions from: river environments, coastal environments, hazardous environments.

1.2 Assessment information

- Examination length: 1 hour and 10 minutes.
- Examination is in two sections.
- Section A (50 marks).
- Learners choose **two** out of three questions on: river environments, coastal environments, hazardous environments.
- Section B (20 marks).
- Learners choose **one** out of three fieldwork-related questions on: river environments, coastal environments, hazardous environments.
- Total for Unit 1 assessment: 70 marks, which will be converted to UMS.

1.3 Subject content – Section A

Topic 1: River environments

What learners need to study:

Key ideas	Detailed content
1.1 The world's water supply is contained in a closed system – the hydrological cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The hydrological cycle: characteristics, stores and transfers. b) Features of a drainage basin: source, watershed, channel network, mouth. c) Factors affecting river regimes: precipitation, including storm hydrographs, temperature, vegetation, land use, water abstraction, dams. (1)
1.2 Physical processes give rise to characteristic river landforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Fluvial processes involved in river valley and river channel formation: erosion (vertical and lateral), weathering and mass movement, transportation and deposition, and factors affecting these processes (climate, slope, geology, altitude and aspect). b) How channel shape (width, depth), valley profile (long and cross profiles), gradient, velocity, discharge, and sediment size and shape change along the course of a named river 🌐. (2) c) How river landscapes change over the course of a river, with distinctive upland and lowland landforms, including the formation of valleys, interlocking spurs, waterfalls, meanders, oxbow lakes, flood plains and levees. (3)
Case studies of river management in a developed country and a developing country or an emerging country	
1.3 River environments are of great importance to people and need to be sustainably managed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Uses of water, including agriculture, industry, human hygiene and leisure, and the rising demand for and supply of water: areas of water shortage and water surplus. b) Reasons for variations in water quality, including pollution (sewage, industrial waste, agriculture) and the storage and supply of clean water (dams and reservoirs, pipelines, treatment works). (4) c) Causes of river flooding, including rainfall intensity, seasonal variations in discharge due to monsoons or snowmelt, relief, urbanisation, and the prediction and prevention of flooding. (5)

Integrated skills	
(1)	Draw and interpret storm hydrographs using rainfall and discharge data.
(2)	Use geology maps (paper or online) to link river long profiles to geology.
(3)	Use GIS to map river systems.
(4)	Use different maps (paper or online) to investigate the impact of human intervention.
(5)	Use weather and climate data.

Topic 2: Coastal environments

What learners need to study:

Key ideas	Detailed content
2.1 Physical processes and human intervention give rise to characteristic coastal landforms	<p>a) Physical processes at work on the coast: marine processes (wave action, erosion, deposition and transportation, including longshore drift), weathering (mechanical, chemical and biological) and mass movement (sliding and slumping).</p> <p>b) Influence of geology, vegetation, people and sea-level changes on coastal environments. (1)</p> <p>c) Role of erosional and depositional processes in the development of landforms: headlands and bays, cliffs, wave-cut platforms, caves, arches, stacks and stumps, beaches, spits and bars. (2)</p>
2.2 Distinctive ecosystems develop along particular stretches of coastline	<p>a) Distributions and features of the world's coastal ecosystems (coral reefs, mangroves, sand dunes and salt marshes). (3)</p> <p>b) Abiotic and biotic characteristics of one named coastal ecosystem 🌐. (4)</p> <p>c) How small- and large-scale coastal ecosystems are threatened by people and their activities (industrialisation, agricultural practices, tourism and deforestation).</p>
Case studies of coastal management in a developed country and a developing country or an emerging country	
2.3 Coastal environments are of great importance to people and need to be sustainably managed	<p>a) Conflicts between different users of the coast, with different views on coastal management (conservation or development).</p> <p>b) Causes of coastal flooding (storm surges, tsunamis, climate change) and the prediction and prevention of flooding (forecasting, building design, planning and education).</p> <p>c) There are different coastal management strategies, including soft engineering (beach replenishment, cliff regrading, ecosystem rehabilitation and revegetation, managed retreat), hard engineering (groynes, revetments, sea walls, gabions, riprap) and shoreline management plans. (5)</p>

Integrated skills	
(1)	Use maps (paper or online) to link coastal form to geology.
(2)	Use GIS to map coastal systems.
(3)	Use world maps to show the distribution of coastal ecosystems.
(4)	Use and interpret nutrient cycle diagrams and food web diagrams.
(5)	Use maps (paper or online) to indicate shoreline management plans.

Topic 3: Hazardous environments

What learners need to study:

Key ideas	Detailed content
3.1 Some places are more hazardous than others	<p>a) Characteristics, distribution and measurement of different types of natural hazards including tropical cyclones, earthquakes and volcanoes. (1)</p> <p>b) Causes of tropical cyclone hazards, including ocean temperature, atmospheric pressure, wind shear and Coriolis force.</p> <p>c) Causes of volcanic and earthquake hazards, including the role of plate boundaries and hotspots. (2)</p>
3.2 Hazards have an impact on people and the environment	<p>a) Reasons why people continue to live in areas at risk from hazard events.</p> <p>b) Some countries are more vulnerable (physically, socially and economically) than others to the impacts of natural hazards.</p> <p>c) The shorter-term and longer-term impacts of one earthquake one volcano and one tropical cyclone hazard (3).</p>
Case studies of hazard management for an earthquake in a developed country and a developing country or an emerging country	
3.3 Earthquakes present a hazard to many people and need to be managed carefully	<p>a) Preparation for earthquakes (warning and evacuation, building design, remote sensing and GIS). (4)</p> <p>b) Short-term responses and relief (emergency aid, shelter and supplies).</p> <p>c) Longer-term planning (risk assessment, hazard mapping and rebuilding programmes). (5)</p>

Integrated skills	
(1)	Use world maps to show the distribution of different hazards.
(2)	Use a range of different maps to show links between tectonic boundary and hazard type.
(3)	Use social media sources, satellite images and socio-economic data to assess varying impacts.
(4)	Use GIS to investigate preparation for earthquake hazards.
(5)	Use online data sources to research the range of shorter- and longer-term responses for a particular earthquake event.

1.4 Assessment of fieldwork skills – Section B

Fieldwork is assessed in Section B of Paper 1. Learners are required to complete **one** geographical enquiry involving fieldwork relating to **one** topic in Unit 1 assessment.

Paper 1: Physical Geography

- River environments
- Coastal environments
- Hazardous environments

Centres must ensure that:

- Primary data collection includes quantitative and qualitative techniques.
- Secondary data collection includes the use of at least **two** different secondary data sources for your chosen environment.

Practical skills

As part of – and in addition to – undertaking the geographical enquiry, learners should acquire and be able to apply the following skills:

- **graphical skills** – compiling graphs and flow lines, using proportional symbols, annotating maps, diagrams and photographs
- **map skills** (including use of digital maps) – using grid references, understanding scales, recognising symbols, identifying landforms and human features of the landscape
- **photo-interpretation skills** – reading vertical and oblique aerial photographs and satellite images, including GIS
- **sketching skills** – communicating ideas through simple sketch maps and field sketches
- **spatial awareness** – identifying the relative locations and relationships between features.

Cognitive enquiry skills

Learners should acquire and be able to apply the following skills:

- **analysis of findings** – reviewing and interpreting quantitative and qualitative information using appropriate media
- **use of statistical skills** – simple descriptive statistics, such as lines of best fit, means, medians, modes, etc.
- **conflict resolution skills** – identifying the views of interested people (stakeholders), recognising that stakeholders may have strongly different attitudes and feelings towards a particular issue
- **evaluation of findings** – appraisal and review of data and information to see if they are accurate and suitable for the purpose, or misleading and unreliable.

Fieldwork questions will include questions set in a familiar and unfamiliar fieldwork context.

Questions set in a familiar fieldwork context will require learners to interpret, analyse, evaluate and make judgements about their own fieldwork (AO3). They will also require learners to communicate their findings (AO4).

Questions set in an unfamiliar fieldwork context will be set in in the fieldwork environment learners have studied and will relate to the fieldwork investigation they have done (as set out in column 4 in the table below), they will, however, use unfamiliar fieldwork data and learners will need to show that they can apply their fieldwork understanding and skills to interpret and analyse this data.

Contexts for fieldwork			
Unit 1 assessment: Physical Geography			
Section B topic	Geographical enquiry	Suggested methods of primary and secondary data collection for familiar fieldwork contexts	What learners need to study for unfamiliar primary and secondary fieldwork contexts in Unit 1
River environments	Investigation of river processes and form through primary and secondary fieldwork evidence	<p>Primary</p> <p>Quantitative e.g. (1) channel measurements – velocity, width, depth and gradient (2) measurements of sediment – size and shape</p> <p>Qualitative e.g. (1) annotated field sketches of the river channel and its features, (2) photographs to show how the channel changes downstream</p> <p>Secondary (1) A GIS topographic map, e.g. from ArcGIS Online or Google Earth, (2) local secondary data on river flows or regimes</p>	<p>Primary</p> <p>Quantitative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River channel characteristics: width, depth and velocity • River gradient <p>Qualitative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annotated field sketches <p>Secondary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIS topographic map
Coastal environments	Investigation of coastal processes and form through primary and secondary fieldwork evidence	<p>Primary</p> <p>Quantitative e.g. (1) sediment size and shape measurements, beach profile survey, (2) measurement of erosional features – a cliff or intertidal zone</p> <p>Qualitative e.g. (1) annotated field sketches of particular coastal features, (2) photographs to show how there are variations along a stretch of the coast</p>	<p>Primary</p> <p>Quantitative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sediment: size and shape • Beach profile <p>Qualitative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annotated field sketches <p>Secondary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local geology map

Section B topic	Geographical enquiry	Suggested methods of primary and secondary data collection for familiar fieldwork contexts	What learners need to study for unfamiliar primary and secondary fieldwork contexts in Unit 1
		<p>Secondary</p> <p>(1) A local geology map (paper or digital), (2) local secondary data on coastal change, e.g. historic maps</p>	
Hazardous environments	Investigation of physical processes involved in an extreme weather event through the recording of primary and secondary fieldwork evidence	<p>Primary</p> <p>Quantitative</p> <p>e.g. (1) recording of a weather diary and local risk and hazard maps, (2) structured questionnaire about hazard perception</p> <p>Qualitative</p> <p>e.g. (1) annotated field sketches to show evidence of an extreme weather event, (2) photographs/ video taken before, during and after the extreme weather event</p> <p>Secondary</p> <p>(1) An online feed from a local weather station, e.g. Wunderground, (2) local secondary data on weather events, e.g. newspapers, online accounts</p>	<p>Primary</p> <p>Quantitative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weather diary: wind, rain, temperature, and air pressure Local risk and hazard mapping <p>Qualitative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annotated field sketches <p>Secondary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local live feed of an extreme weather event

Unit 2: Human Geography

Externally assessed

2.1 Content description

This unit brings together human geography and people-environment processes and interactions. The examination is divided into three sections.

Section A – learners choose **two** out of three topics from: economic activity and energy, rural environments and urban environments.

- Topic 4: Economic activity and energy – variations in economic activity over time and spatially, the relationship between population and resources and detailed case studies of energy resource management in a developed **and** a developing **or** emerging country.
- Topic 5: Rural environments – distribution, characteristics and human activities taking place in rural environments, the changes in contrasting rural environments and detailed case studies of rural environments in a developed **and** a developing **or** emerging country.
- Topic 6: Urban environments – trends, characteristics and problems associated with urban environments, the challenges facing contrasting urban environments and detailed case studies of urban environments in a developed **and** a developing **or** emerging country.

Section B – learners are required to undertake a geographical investigation, involving fieldwork and research, in **one** human environment. In this paper, learners choose **one** out of three fieldwork-related questions from: economic activity and energy, rural environments and urban environments.

Section C – learners are required to apply their knowledge and understanding of human and physical geography to investigate broader global issues. Learners choose **one** out of three questions from: fragile environments and climate change, globalisation and migration, and development and human welfare.

- Topic 7: Fragile environments and climate change – distribution, characteristics and threats facing the world's fragile environments, the impacts of different processes, including climate change, on fragile environments, and different approaches to managing fragile environments in a more sustainable way.
 - Topic 8: Globalisation and migration – the characteristics and growth in globalisation, including the role of global institutions and transnational corporations, and the impacts of increased globalisation, including migration and tourism and different approaches to managing migration and tourism in a more sustainable way.
 - Topic 9: Development and human welfare – definitions and ways of measuring development and human welfare, patterns of global development and the consequences of variations in development, and different strategies to address uneven levels of development and human welfare.
-

2.2 Assessment information

- Examination length: 1 hour and 45 minutes.
 - Examination is in three sections.
 - Section A (50 marks).
 - Learners choose **two** out of three questions on: economic activity and energy, rural environments, and urban environments.
 - Section B (20 marks).
 - Learners choose **one** out of three fieldwork-related questions on: economic activity and energy, rural environments, and urban environments.
 - Section C (35 marks).
 - Learners choose one out of three questions on: fragile environments and climate change, globalisation and migration, and development and human welfare.
 - Total for Unit 2 assessment: 105 marks, which will be converted to UMS.
-

2.3 Subject content – Section A

Topic 4: Economic activity and energy

What learners need to study:

Key ideas	Detailed content
4.1 The relative importance of different economic sectors and the location of economic activity varies spatially, and changes over time	<p>a) Classification of employment by economic sector (primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary) and the reasons for the differences in the employment structures in countries at different levels of development (Clark Fisher Model). (1)</p> <p>b) Factors affecting the location of economic activity in each economic sector and how these factors can change over time.</p> <p>c) Reasons for the changes in the numbers of people employed in each economic sector, including the availability of raw materials, globalisation, mechanisation, demographic changes and government policies.</p>
4.2 The growth and decline of different economic sectors has resulted in a range of impacts and possible resource issues	<p>a) Positive and negative impacts of economic sector shifts in a named developed 🌐 and a named developing 🌐 or emerging country 🌐. (2)</p> <p>b) Informal employment: causes (economic development, rural-urban migration) and characteristics (advantages and disadvantages) in a named megacity 🌐. (3)</p> <p>c) Different theories (Malthus and Boserup) are used to explain the relationship between population and resources. (4)</p>
Case studies of energy resource management in a developed country and a developing country or an emerging country	
4.3 Countries increasingly experience an energy gap and therefore seek energy security by developing a balanced energy mix and sustainable energy use	<p>a) Energy demand and production varies globally and is affected by a range of factors: population growth, increased wealth and technological advances.</p> <p>b) Non-renewable, e.g. coal, oil, natural gas, uranium and shale gas/oil, and renewable sources of energy, e.g. solar, wind, hydroelectric power (HEP), geothermal, biomass, have advantages and disadvantages for people and the environment.</p> <p>c) Energy can be managed in a sustainable way through education, efficiency and conservation (within industry, transport and the home). (5)</p>

Integrated skills	
(1)	Draw and interpret triangular graphs to show the proportion of people employed in the primary, secondary and tertiary/quaternary sector.
(2)	Use numerical economic data to profile the chosen country.
(3)	Interpret photographs and newspaper articles.
(4)	Use and interpret line graphs showing changes in population and resources over time.
(5)	Calculate carbon and ecological footprints.

Topic 5: Rural environments

What learners need to study:

Key ideas	Detailed content
5.1 Rural environments are natural ecosystems that are exploited by human activities	a) Distributions and characteristics of the world’s biomes (tropical, temperate and boreal forests, tropical and temperate grasslands, deserts and tundra). (1) b) Examples of goods and services provided for people by natural ecosystems (timber, tourism, food, energy, water resources, health services, natural protection, and climate regulation). c) How humans use, modify and change ecosystems and rural environments to obtain food through farming systems (arable/pastoral, commercial/subsistence, intensive/extensive). (2)
5.2 Rural environments have contrasting physical, social and economic characteristics and are experiencing significant changes	a) Characteristics of a rural environment: landscape, climate, settlement, population, land use, employment, accessibility, management (development or conservation). b) Factors leading to rural changes in a named developed country 🌐: rural isolation, decline in farm employment, tourist pressures, suburbanisation, counter-urbanisation, and the negative multiplier effect. c) Factors leading to rural changes in a named developing country 🌐 or emerging country 🌐: population growth, changing farm economy and landholdings, natural hazards, and rural-urban migration. (3)
Case studies of rural environments in a developed country and in a developing country or an emerging country	
5.3 Rural environments need to adapt to be socially, economically and environmentally sustainable	a) The diversification of farming to generate new income streams: GM crops, specialist crops and food, organic farming, recreation and leisure. (4) b) The range of possible strategies aimed at making rural living more sustainable and improving the quality of life (soil and air quality, water supplies, crop yields, health, employment and housing) for the chosen rural environment. (5) c) Role of different groups of people (national and local government, IGOs, NGOs and local communities) in managing the social, economic and environmental challenges within the chosen rural environment.

Integrated skills	
(1)	Use world maps to show the location of biomes.
(2)	Use flow diagrams to represent the effects of different human activities on ecosystems and rural environments.
(3)	Use and interpret population pyramids.
(4)	Use photographs, marketing and social media to investigate diversification.
(5)	Use socio-economic data to provide evidence that the quality of life has improved.

Topic 6: Urban environments

What learners need to study:

Key ideas	Detailed content
6.1 A growing percentage of the world's population lives in urban areas	<p>a) Contrasting trends in urbanisation over the last 50 years in different parts of the world, including the processes of suburbanisation and counter-urbanisation. (1)</p> <p>b) Factors affecting the rate of urbanisation and the emergence of megacities.</p> <p>c) Problems associated with rapid urbanisation: congestion, transport, employment, crime and environmental issues. (2)</p>
6.2 Cities face a range of social and environmental challenges resulting from rapid growth and resource demands	<p>a) Factors affecting urban land use patterns: locational needs, accessibility, land values. (3)</p> <p>b) Urban challenges in a named developed country 🌐: food, energy, transport and waste disposal demands, concentrated resource consumption, segregation. (4)</p> <p>c) Urban challenges in a named developing country 🌐 or emerging country 🌐: squatter settlements, informal economy, urban pollution, and low quality of life.</p>
Case studies of urban environments in a developed country and a developing country or an emerging country	
6.3 Different strategies can be used to manage social, economic and environmental challenges in a sustainable manner	<p>a) Development of the rural-urban fringe: housing estates, retail, business and science parks, industrial estates, and the greenfield versus brownfield debate.</p> <p>b) The range of possible strategies aimed at making urban living more sustainable and improving the quality of life (waste disposal, transport, education, health, employment and housing) for the chosen urban environment. (5)</p> <p>c) Role of different groups of people (planners, politicians, property developers and industrialists) in managing the social, economic and environmental challenges in the chosen urban area.</p>

Integrated skills	
(1)	Use world maps to show the trends in urbanisation over the last 50 years.
(2)	Interpret photographs and different maps (paper or online) to investigate the impacts of rapid urbanisation.
(3)	Use satellite images to identify different land uses in the chosen urban environment.
(4)	Use and interpret socio-economic data.
(5)	Use quantitative and qualitative information to judge the scale in variations in environmental quality.

2.4 Assessment of fieldwork skills – Section B

Fieldwork is assessed in Section B of Unit 2 assessment. Learners are required to complete **one** geographical enquiry involving fieldwork relating to **one** topic in Unit 2 assessment.

Unit 2 assessment: Human Geography

- Economic activity and energy
- Rural environments
- Urban environments

Centres must ensure that:

- Primary data collection includes quantitative and qualitative techniques.
- Secondary data collection includes the use of at least **two** different secondary data sources for your chosen environment.

Practical skills

As part of – and in addition to – undertaking the geographical enquiry, learners should acquire and be able to apply the following skills:

- **graphical skills** – compiling graphs and flow lines, using proportional symbols, annotating maps, diagrams and photographs
- **map skills** (including use of digital maps) – using grid references, understanding scales, recognising symbols, identifying landforms and human features of the landscape
- **photo-interpretation skills** – reading vertical and oblique aerial photographs and satellite images, including GIS
- **sketching skills** – communicating ideas through simple sketch maps and field sketches
- **spatial awareness** – identifying the relative locations and relationships between features.

Cognitive enquiry skills

Learners should acquire and be able to apply the following skills:

- **analysis of findings** – reviewing and interpreting quantitative and qualitative information using appropriate media
- **use of statistical skills** – simple descriptive statistics, such as lines of best fit, means, medians, modes, etc.
- **conflict resolution skills** – identifying the views of interested people (stakeholders), recognising that stakeholders may have strongly different attitudes and feelings towards a particular issue
- **evaluation of findings** – appraisal and review of data and information to see if these are accurate and suitable for the purpose, or misleading and unreliable.

Fieldwork questions will include questions set in a familiar and unfamiliar fieldwork context.

Questions set in a familiar fieldwork context will require learners to interpret, analyse, evaluate and make judgements about their own fieldwork (AO3). They will also require learners to communicate their findings (AO4).

Questions set in an unfamiliar fieldwork context will be set in the fieldwork environment that learners have studied and will relate to the fieldwork investigation they have carried out (as set out in column 4 in the table below), they will, however, use unfamiliar fieldwork data and learners will need to show that they can apply their fieldwork understanding and skills to interpret and analyse this data (AO3) and communicate their findings (AO4).

Contexts for fieldwork			
Unit 2 assessment: Human Geography			
Section B topic	Geographical enquiry	Suggested methods of primary data collection	What learners need to study for Unit 2
Economic activity and energy	Investigating changing energy use through primary and secondary evidence	<p>Primary</p> <p>Quantitative e.g. (1) environmental quality survey, and a structured questionnaire, (2) visual assessment of landscape</p> <p>Qualitative e.g. (1) annotated photographs showing evidence of changing energy use, (2) interviews with different stakeholders</p> <p>Secondary (1) A local report (paper or digital) into people's/or the region's energy use, (2) local secondary data on landscape change from an energy development, e.g. historic maps and images</p>	<p>Primary</p> <p>Quantitative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small-scale environmental quality survey (EQS) • Structured questionnaire, including closed questions <p>Qualitative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annotated photographs <p>Secondary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local report on energy use

Section B topic	Geographical enquiry	Suggested methods of primary data collection	What learners need to study for Unit 2
Rural environments	Investigating the changing use of rural environments through primary and secondary evidence	<p>Primary</p> <p>Quantitative e.g. (1) environmental quality survey, and a structured questionnaire, (2) landscape or building assessment survey</p> <p>Qualitative e.g. (1) annotated photographs showing evidence of changing rural environments, (2) interviews with different stakeholders</p> <p>Secondary (1) A local report (paper or digital) into an aspect of change in a rural area and community, (2) local secondary data on landscape change from development, e.g. historic maps and images</p>	<p>Primary</p> <p>Qualitative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small-scale environmental quality survey (EQS) • Structured questionnaire, including closed questions <p>Quantitative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annotated photographs <p>Secondary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on change in a local rural community

Section B topic	Geographical enquiry	Suggested methods of primary data collection	What learners need to study for Unit 2
Urban environments	Investigating the changing use of central/inner urban environments through primary and secondary evidence	<p>Primary</p> <p>Quantitative e.g. (1) environmental quality survey, and a structured questionnaire, (2) urban land use survey</p> <p>Qualitative e.g. (1) annotated photographs showing evidence of changing rural environments, (2) interviews with different stakeholders</p> <p>Secondary (1) A local report (paper or digital) into an aspect of change in an urban area and community, (2) local secondary data on urban change from development, e.g. historic maps and images</p>	<p>Primary</p> <p>Quantitative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small-scale environmental quality survey (EQS) • Structured questionnaire, including closed questions <p>Quantitative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annotated photographs <p>Secondary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on change in a local urban community

2.5 Subject content – Section C (Global issues)

Topic 7: Fragile environments and climate change

What learners need to study:

Key ideas	Detailed content
7.1 Fragile environments are under threat from desertification, deforestation and global climate change	<p>a) Distributions and characteristics of the world’s fragile environments. (1)</p> <p>b) Causes of desertification (drought, population pressure, fuel supply, overgrazing, migration) and deforestation (commercial timber extraction, agriculture, mining, transport; settlement and HEP (hydroelectric power). (2) and (3)</p> <p>c) Causes of natural climate change (Milankovitch cycles, solar variation and volcanism) and how human activities (industry, transport, energy, and farming) can cause the enhanced greenhouse effect. (4)</p>
7.2 There are various impacts of desertification, deforestation and climate change on fragile environments	<p>a) Social, economic and environmental impacts of desertification (reduced agricultural output, malnutrition, famine, migration).</p> <p>b) Social, economic and environmental impacts of deforestation (loss of biodiversity, contribution to climate change, economic development and increased soil erosion).</p> <p>c) Negative effects that climate change is having on fragile environments and people (rising sea levels, more hazards, ecosystem changes, reduced employment opportunities, changing settlement patterns, health and wellbeing challenges, including food supply). (5)</p>
7.3 The responses to desertification, deforestation and climate change vary, depending on a country’s level of development	<p>a) How technology can resolve water-resource shortages in fragile environments under threat from desertification.</p> <p>b) Different approaches to the sustainable use and management of a rainforest in a named region 🌐 to limit the extent of deforestation.</p> <p>c) Different responses to global warming and climate change from individuals, organisations and governments in a named developed 🌐 and a named emerging or developing country 🌐.</p>

Integrated skills	
(1)	Use world maps to show the location of fragile environments.
(2)	Use and interpret line graphs showing past and predicted global population growth, and population in relation to likely resources.
(3)	Use maps (paper and online) to identify the pattern of deforestation.
(4)	Use and interpret graphs and maps to show human causes of climate change.
(5)	Use and interpret line graphs/bar charts showing climate change and sea level change.

Topic 8: Globalisation and migration

What learners need to study:

Key ideas	Detailed content
8.1 Globalisation is creating a more connected world, with increased movements of goods (trade) and people (migration and tourism) worldwide	<p>a) Rise of the global economy (growth of production and commodity chains) and the factors encouraging it (trade, foreign investment, aid, labour, modern transport and information technologies). (1)</p> <p>b) Role of global institutions, including the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and TNCs in creating a more globalised economy.</p> <p>c) Push and pull factors (social, economic and political) that have influenced rates of different types of migration over the last 50 years, including medical, sport, tourism and economic. (2)</p>
8.2 The impacts of globalisation vary on a global scale	<p>a) Impacts of globalisation on different groups of people, including the benefits and costs to countries hosting TNCs. (3)</p> <p>b) Impacts of migration (voluntary, forced, national, international, and rural-urban) on different groups of people. (4)</p> <p>c) Positive and negative impacts of the growth of global tourism, including mass tourism, on the environment, economy and people of destination areas. (5)</p>
8.3 The responses to increased migration and tourism vary depending on a country's level of development	<p>a) How geopolitical relationships between countries are important in managing trade, migration and tourism.</p> <p>b) Different approaches to the management of long-term migration in a named country 🌐.</p> <p>c) Different approaches to make tourism more sustainable from individuals, organisations and governments in a named developed 🌐 and a named emerging or developing country 🌐.</p>

Integrated skills	
(1)	Use and interpret line graphs/bar charts showing changes in the global economy over the past 50 years.
(2)	Use maps (paper and online) to identify patterns of migration.
(3)	Interpret photographs and newspaper articles.
(4)	Use and interpret graphs to show rates of population movement over the past 50 years.
(5)	Use and interpret socio-economic data.

Topic 9: Development and human welfare

What learners need to study:

Key idea	Detailed content
9.1 Definitions of development and human welfare vary, as do attempts to measure it	<p>a) The different ways of defining development, using economic criteria and broader social and political measures.</p> <p>b) Different factors contribute to the development and human welfare of a country: economic, social, technological, cultural, as well as food and water security.</p> <p>c) Development is measured in different ways: GDP per capita, the Human Development Index, measures of inequality and indices of political corruption. (1) and (2)</p>
9.2 The level of development and human welfare varies globally and has had a range of consequences	<p>a) Global pattern of the uneven development between and within countries and the factors (social, historic and economic) that have led to these spatial variations.</p> <p>b) Impact of uneven development on welfare and quality of life within one named country 🌐: poverty, unemployment, inadequate housing and physical infrastructure. (3)</p> <p>c) How countries at different levels of development have differences in their demographic data (fertility rates, death rates, natural increase, population structures, maternal and infant mortality rates). (4) and (5)</p>
9.3 A range of sustainable strategies is required to address uneven levels of development and human welfare	<p>a) The range of international strategies (international aid and intergovernmental agreements) that attempt to reduce uneven development.</p> <p>b) Different views held by individuals, organisations and governments on tackling the development gap.</p> <p>c) Advantages and disadvantages of top-down and bottom-up development projects used to promote development in a named developed 🌐 and a named emerging or developing country 🌐.</p>

Integrated skills	
(1)	Compare the relative ranking of countries using single and composite (indices) development measures.
(2)	Use and interpret socio-economic data.
(3)	Use numerical online data to profile the chosen country.
(4)	Interpret population pyramids using demographic data.
(5)	Use and interpret different demographic data to show varying levels of development.

4 Assessment information

Assessment requirements

Unit number and title	Level	Assessment information	Number of raw marks allocated in the unit
Unit 1: Physical Geography	1/2	<p>1 hour and 10 minute examination in two sections and resource booklet.</p> <p>Learners will be asked to answer two out of three questions in Section A and one out of three questions in Section B.</p> <p>Section A consists of multiple-choice, short-answer, data-response and open-ended questions.</p> <p>Section B requires learners to use knowledge and understanding from research and fieldwork that they have carried out. Learners must not take materials into the examination.</p>	70
Unit 2: Human Geography	1/2	<p>1 hour and 45 minute examination in three sections and resource booklet.</p> <p>Learners will be asked to answer two out of three questions in Section A, one out of three questions in Section B and one out of three questions in Section C.</p> <p>Section A consists of multiple-choice, short-answer, data-response and open-ended questions.</p> <p>Section B requires learners to use knowledge and understanding from research and fieldwork that they have carried out. Learners must not take materials into the examination.</p> <p>Section C consists of multiple-choice, short-answer, data-response and open-ended questions.</p>	105

Assessment objectives and weightings

		% in International GCSE (Modular)
AO1	Demonstrate knowledge of locations, places, processes, environments and different scale.	15–16
AO2	Demonstrate geographical understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • concepts and how they are used in relation to places, environments and processes • the interrelationships between places, environments and processes. 	25–26
AO3	Apply knowledge and understanding to interpret, analyse and evaluate geographical information and issues and to make judgements.	34–35 (approx. 13% applied to fieldwork context(s))
AO4	Select, adapt and use a variety of skills and techniques to investigate questions and issues and communicate findings.	24–25 (approx. 10% used to respond to fieldwork data and context(s))

Relationship of assessment objectives to units

Unit	Assessment objective			
	AO1	AO2	AO3	AO4
Unit 1	7.1%	12.9%	17.9%	12.1%
Unit 2	8.5%	12.9%	16.2%	12.4%
Total for International GCSE (Modular)	15–16%	25–26%	34–35%	24–25%

All units' assessments will be available from June 2024.

5 Administration and general information

Entries

Details of how to enter learners for the examinations for this qualification can be found in our *International Information Manual*. A copy is made available to all examinations officers and is available on our website.

Learners should be advised that, if they take two qualifications in the same subject, colleges, universities and employers are very likely to take the view that they have achieved only one of the two International GCSEs (Modular). Learners or their advisers who have any doubts about subject combinations should check with the institution to which they wish to progress before embarking on their programmes.

This International GCSE in Geography (Modular) is available only to centres outside of the UK.

Access arrangements, reasonable adjustments, special consideration and malpractice

Equality and fairness are central to our work. Our Equality Policy requires all learners to have equal opportunity to access our qualifications and assessments, and our qualifications to be awarded in a way that is fair to every learner.

We are committed to making sure that:

- learners with a protected characteristic (as defined by the UK Equality Act 2010) are not, when they are undertaking one of our qualifications, disadvantaged in comparison to learners who do not share that characteristic
- all learners achieve the recognition they deserve for undertaking a qualification and that this achievement can be compared fairly to the achievement of their peers.

Language of assessment

Assessment of this qualification will be available in English only. All learner work must be in English.

We recommend that learners have the ability to read and write in English at Level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

Access arrangements

Access arrangements are agreed before an assessment. They allow learners with special educational needs, disabilities or temporary injuries to:

- access the assessment
- show what they know and can do without changing the demands of the assessment.

The intention behind an access arrangement is to meet the particular needs of an individual learner with a disability without affecting the integrity of the assessment. Access arrangements are the principal way in which awarding bodies comply with the duty under the UK Equality Act 2010 to make 'reasonable adjustments'.

Access arrangements should always be processed at the start of the course. Learners will then know what is available and have the access arrangement(s) in place for assessment.

Reasonable adjustments

The UK Equality Act 2010 requires an awarding organisation to make reasonable adjustments where a learner with a disability would be at a substantial disadvantage in undertaking an assessment. The awarding organisation is required to take reasonable steps to overcome that disadvantage.

A reasonable adjustment for a particular learner may be unique to that individual and therefore might not be in the list of available access arrangements.

Whether an adjustment will be considered reasonable will depend on a number of factors, including:

- the needs of the learner with the disability
- the effectiveness of the adjustment
- the cost of the adjustment
- the likely impact of the adjustment on the learner with the disability and other learners.

An adjustment will not be approved if it involves unreasonable costs to the awarding organisation, timeframes or affects the security or integrity of the assessment. This is because the adjustment is not 'reasonable'.

Special consideration

Special consideration is a post-examination adjustment to a learner's mark or grade to reflect temporary injury, illness or other indisposition at the time of the examination/assessment, which has had, or is reasonably likely to have had, a material effect on a learner's ability to take an assessment or demonstrate their level of attainment in an assessment.

Further information

Please see our website for further information about how to apply for access arrangements and special consideration.

For further information about access arrangements, reasonable adjustments and special consideration please refer to the JCQ website: www.jcq.org.uk

Candidate malpractice

Candidate malpractice refers to any act by a candidate that compromises or seeks to compromise the process of assessment or which undermines the integrity of the qualifications or the validity of results/certificates.

Candidate malpractice in controlled assessments discovered before the candidate has signed the declaration of authentication form does not need to be reported to Pearson.

Candidate malpractice found in controlled assessments after the declaration of authenticity has been signed, and in examinations **must** be reported to Pearson using a *JCQ Form M1* (available at www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice). The completed form should be emailed to candidatemalpractice@pearson.com. Please provide as much information and supporting documentation as possible. Note that the final decision regarding appropriate sanctions lies with Pearson.

Failure to report malpractice constitutes staff or centre malpractice.

Staff/centre malpractice

Staff and centre malpractice includes both deliberate malpractice and maladministration of our qualifications. As with candidate malpractice, staff and centre malpractice is any act that compromises or seeks to compromise the process of assessment or which undermines the integrity of the qualifications or the validity of results/certificates.

All cases of suspected staff malpractice and maladministration **must** be reported immediately, before any investigation is undertaken by the centre, to Pearson on a *JCQ Form M2(a)* (available at www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice).

The form, supporting documentation and as much information as possible should be emailed to pqsmalpractice@pearson.com. Note that the final decision regarding appropriate sanctions lies with Pearson.

Failure to report malpractice itself constitutes malpractice.

More-detailed guidance on malpractice can be found in the latest version of the document *JCQ Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures*, available at www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice.

Awarding and reporting

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Geography (Modular) will be graded on a nine-grade scale from 9 to 1. Individual unit results will be reported. All two units will contribute to the International GCSE (Modular) grade. The first certification opportunity for Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Geography (Modular) will be in August 2025. Learners whose level of achievement is below the minimum judged by Pearson to be of sufficient standard to be recorded on a certificate will receive an unclassified U result.

For modular qualifications, the 'final mark' or the Uniform Mark Scale (UMS) mark is different from the score on the exam paper - the so-called 'raw mark'.

The purpose of UMS is to ensure that where learners complete a unit in different series, the value of their score is maintained when certificating.

Learners will receive a uniform mark between 0 and the maximum uniform mark for each unit.

Unit results

This shows the total UMS for each unit and the associated grade boundaries. Students will receive a uniform mark between 0 and the maximum uniform mark for each unit.

Unit 1 (code: 4WGE1)

Unit grade	Maximum uniform mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
	80	72	64	56	48	40	32	24	16	8	0

Unit 2 (code: 4WGE2)

Unit grade	Maximum uniform mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
	120	108	96	84	72	60	48	36	24	12	0

Qualification results

This shows the total UMS for the qualification as a whole and the associated grade boundaries. The minimum uniform marks required for each grade:

International GCSE Geography (modular) (cash-in code: 4XGE1)

Qualification grade	Maximum uniform mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
	200	180	160	140	120	100	80	60	40	20	0

Students with a uniform mark in the range 0-19 will be Unclassified.

Resitting of units

Learners can resit any unit irrespective of whether the qualification is to be cashed in. If a learner resits a unit more than once, only the better of the two most recent attempts of that unit will be available for aggregation to a qualification grade.

Results of units will be held in Pearson Edexcel's unit bank for as many years as this specification remains available. Once International GCSE in Geography (Modular) has been certificated, all unit results are deemed to be used up at that level. These results cannot be used again towards a further award of the same qualification at the same level.

Learner recruitment and progression

Pearson's policy concerning recruitment to our qualifications is that:

- they must be available to anyone who is capable of reaching the required standard
- they must be free from barriers that restrict access and progression
- equal opportunities exist for all learners.

Prior learning and other requirements

There are no prior learning or other requirements for this qualification.

Progression

Learners can progress from this qualification to:

- International AS and A Levels in Geography and other subjects
- vocational qualifications, such as BTEC Nationals.

Appendices

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Appendix 1: Codes

Type of code	Use of code	Code
Cash-in codes	Cash-in codes are used in combination with entry codes to aggregate the learner's unit scores to obtain the overall grade for the qualification.	4XGE1
Entry codes	To enter the learner for their examination, unit codes are used as entry codes. To obtain the overall grade for the qualification, entry codes are used in combination with cash-in codes.	Please refer to the Pearson Edexcel <i>Information Manual</i> , available on the Pearson qualifications website .
Unit codes	Each unit is assigned a unit code. This unit code is used as an entry code to indicate that a learner wishes to take the assessment for a particular unit.	Unit 1: 4WGE1/01 Unit 2: 4WGE2/01

Appendix 2: Definitions

Term	Use of code
Developing country	Country with low human development* (LHD), a poor country
Emerging country	Country with high or medium human development* (HMHD)
Developed country	Country with very high human development* (VHHD)
Megacity	City with population of at least 10 million inhabitants

* Human development as measured by the Human Development Index (HDI). For further information on which countries are categorised as low, medium, high and very high human development by HDI, please see this website: hdr.undp.org, alternatively please email TeachingGeography@pearson.com for further information on the definitions used within this document.

Appendix 3: Command word taxonomy

This table lists the command words that could be used in the examinations for this qualification and their definitions.

Command word	Definition
Analyse	Investigate an issue by breaking it down into individual components and making logical, evidence-based connections about the causes and effects or interrelationships between the components.
Assess	Use evidence to determine the relative significance of something. Give consideration to all factors and identify which are the most important.
Calculate	Produce a numerical answer, showing relevant working.
Compare	Find the similarities and differences of two elements given in a question. Each response must relate to both elements and must include a statement of their similarity/difference.
Define	State the meaning of a term.
Describe	Give an account of the main characteristics of something or the steps in a process. Statements in the response should be developed but do not need to include a justification or reason.
Discuss	Explore the strengths and weaknesses of different sides of an issue/question. Investigate the issue by reasoning or argument.
Draw/plot	Create a graphical representation of geographical information.
Examine	Break something down into individual components/processes and say how each one individually contributes to the question's theme/topic and how the components/processes work together and interrelate.
Explain	Provide a reasoned explanation of how or why something occurs. An explanation requires a justification/exemplification of a point. Some questions will require the use of annotated diagrams to support the explanation.
Evaluate	Measure the value or success of something and ultimately provide a substantiated judgement/conclusion. Review information and then bring it together to form a conclusion, drawing on evidence such as strengths, weaknesses, alternatives and relevant data.
Identify/state/name	Recall or select one or more pieces of information.
Label	Add a label/labels to a given resource, graphic or image.
Suggest	Apply understanding to provide a reasoned explanation of how or why something may occur. A suggested explanation requires a justification/exemplification of a point.

Appendix 4: Geographical skills

Throughout their course of study, learners are required to develop a range of geographical skills, including quantitative skills. These skills may be assessed across any of the examined units. The full list of geographical skills is given below.

Some geographical skills may only be assessed in specific topics. Examples of how these skills could be used within particular topics are signposted in the detailed content and listed in the 'Integrated skills' sections after each topic.

General skills

Atlas and map skills

- Recognise and describe distributions and patterns of both human and physical features at a range of scales, using a variety of maps and atlases.
- Draw, label, annotate, understand and interpret sketch maps.
- Recognise and describe patterns of vegetation, land use and communications infrastructure, as well as other patterns of human and physical landscapes.
- Describe and identify the site, situation and shape of settlements.

Graphical skills

- Label, annotate and interpret different diagrams, maps, graphs, sketches and photographs.
- Use and interpret aerial, oblique, ground and satellite photographs from a range of different landscapes.
- Use maps in association with photographs and sketches and understand links to directions.

Data and information research skills

- Use online census sources to obtain population and local geodemographic information.

Investigative skills

- Identify questions or issues for investigation, develop a hypothesis and/or key questions.
- Consider appropriate sampling procedures (systematic versus random versus stratified) and sample size.
- Consider health and safety and undertake risk assessment.
- Select data collection methods and equipment to ensure accuracy and reliability, and develop recording sheets for measurements and observations.
- Use ICT to manage, collate, process and present information, with use of hand-drawn graphical skills to present information in a suitable way.

- Write descriptively, analytically and critically about findings.
- Develop extended written arguments, drawing well-evidenced and informed conclusions about geographical questions and issues.

Quantitative skills

Cartographic skills

- Use and understand gradient, contour and spot height on isoline maps, e.g. OS maps, weather charts, ocean bathymetric charts.
- Interpret cross sections and transects.
- Use and understand coordinates, scale and distance.
- Describe and interpret geospatial data presented in a GIS framework, e.g. analysis of flood hazard using the interactive maps on an environmental agency website.

Graphical skills

- Select and construct appropriate graphs and charts to present data, using appropriate scales and including bar charts, pie charts, pictograms, line charts and histograms with equal class intervals.
- Interpret and extract information from different types of graphs and charts, including any of the above and others relevant to the topic, e.g. triangular graphs, radial graphs, wind rose diagrams, proportional symbols.
- Interpret population pyramids, choropleth maps and flow line maps.

Numerical skills

- Demonstrate an understanding of number, area and scale, and the quantitative relationships between units.
- Design fieldwork data collection sheets and collect data with an understanding of accuracy, sample size and procedures, control groups and reliability.
- Understand and correctly use proportion and ratio, magnitude and frequency, e.g. 1 : 200 flood, and logarithmic scales such as the Richter scale, in orders of magnitude.
- Draw informed conclusions from numerical data.

Statistical skills

- Use appropriate measures of central tendency, spread and cumulative frequency (median, mean, range, quartiles and interquartile range, mode and modal class).
- Calculate percentage increase or decrease and understand the use of percentiles.
- Describe relationships in bivariate data, e.g. sketch trend lines through scatter plots, draw estimated lines of best fit, make predictions, interpolate and extrapolate trends.
- Identify weaknesses in selective statistical presentation of data.

Practical geographical enquiry skills

Throughout their course, learners need to acquire a range of geographical skills through fieldwork and linked practical exercises. Fieldwork is integral to the enquiry process that underpins the qualification.

Ofsted (2011 subject report) and national NGOs support the view that good and regular fieldwork motivates learners and enhances their understanding of geography. There is evidence that fieldwork encourages a higher than average take-up of academic qualifications.

Fieldwork and enquiry skills should include:

- **pre-fieldwork planning** – designing a fieldwork investigation, as per the qualification content
- **primary field skills** – undertaking a field investigation, the need for sampling, data collection and recording techniques. This can be undertaken within the school grounds or immediate locality
- **presentation, analysis, conclusions and evaluation skills** – using a range of data presentation techniques, analysis of data and drawing conclusions, evaluating the techniques used and the conclusions drawn.

Fieldwork and exceptional circumstances

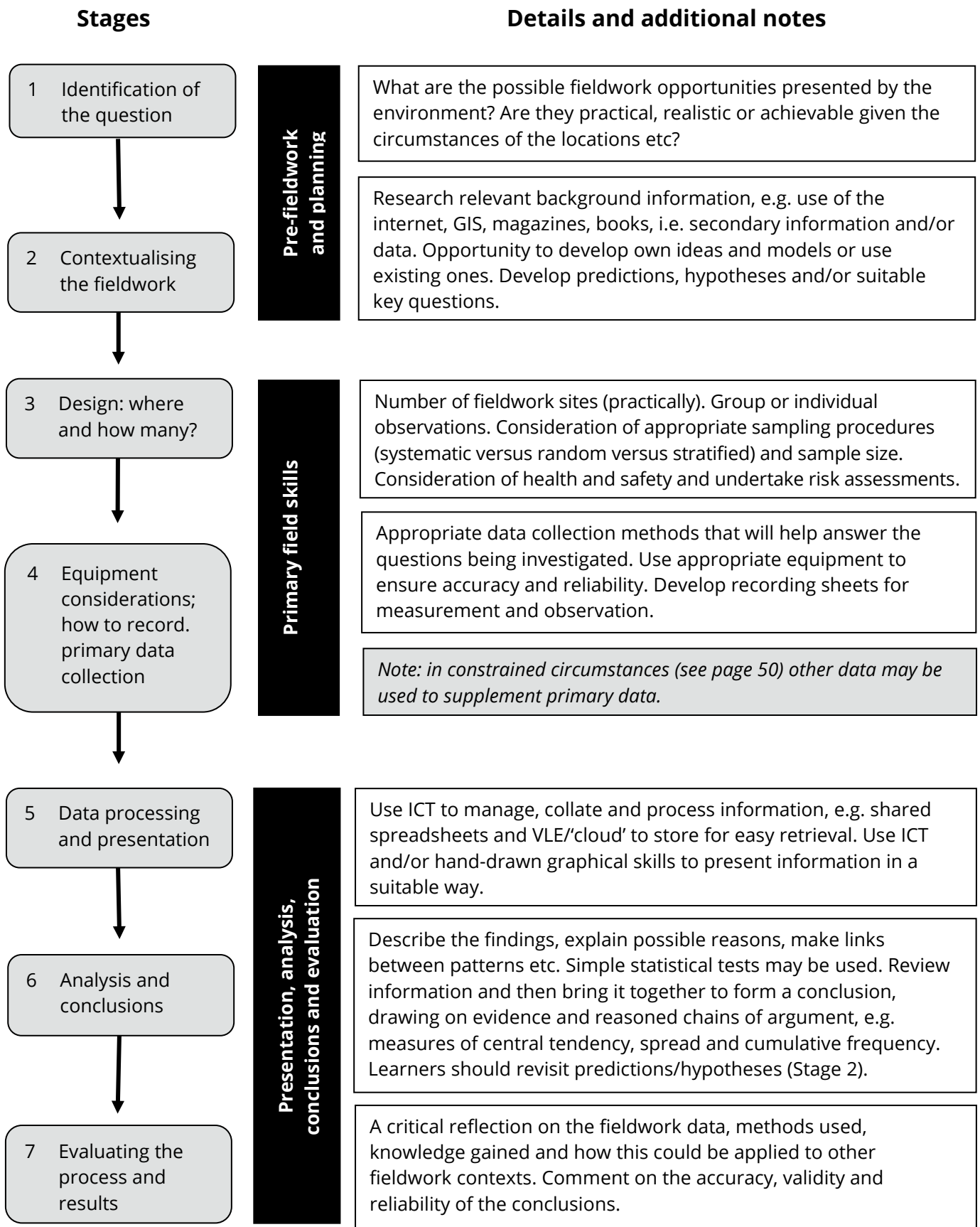
Pearson recognises that for some centres and/or individuals, fieldwork (specifically first-hand data collection activities) can be constrained by:

- (i) geographical location/physical nature of the region
- (ii) cultural/religious exceptions
- (iii) illness
- (iv) physical disability; or
- (v) security.

In these rare circumstances, other fieldwork data could be used instead, e.g. from another agency/organisation, books/magazines or from other learners who were able to collect the data themselves (including from previous cohorts). More examples of other sources of fieldwork data, including relevant websites, can be found in Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Geography teacher support materials. All other aspects of the enquiry process should remain unchanged for those learners (Stages 1–3 and 5–7 in the enquiry process) who have not collected their own data. These learners should work with the substitute data, e.g. graphing, analysis, conclusions, evaluations etc., as if it were their own.

When exceptional circumstances are employed as part of the fieldwork process, **either** for an individual, group **or** cohort, centres must justify their particular circumstances to Pearson through contact with Pearson's Geography Subject Advisor, available from [qualifications.pearson.com](https://www.pearson.com/qualifications).

Appendix 5: Practical geographical enquiry process



Appendix 6: Fieldwork requirements

The table below specifies the minimum types and range of fieldwork (including qualitative, quantitative and secondary data) required for the options available.

Learners are required to undertake fieldwork from topics in Unit 1 **and** Unit 2, so that they can complete the assessments.

Enquiry process point	General focus and details of fieldwork
1. Enquiry question	<p>Learners should have an opportunity to develop understanding of the kinds of questions that can be investigated through fieldwork for the chosen topic.</p> <p>Learners should have an opportunity to develop a question(s) based on their location and the task.</p>
2. Fieldwork methods	<p>Fieldwork data collection must include quantitative and qualitative methods for each of the two investigations – details of these are found on <i>pages 18–19</i> (Physical Geography) and <i>page 29–31</i> (Human Geography).</p> <p>Learners should have an opportunity to consider sample size, sampling strategies and data-collection design to help them understand issues of reliability and accuracy of data. Learners need to understand the purpose of each of the data collection methods for the investigation.</p>
3. Secondary data sources	<p>Learners must use at least two different secondary sources of data.</p> <p>Details of these are found on <i>pages 18–19</i> (Physical Geography) and <i>pages 29–31</i> (Human Geography).</p>
4. Processing and presenting data	<p>Both primary and secondary data should be processed, including the use of tally charts, calculation of means and calculation of percentages.</p> <p>Primary and secondary data should be presented in map form using simple GIS applications.</p> <p>Simple (pie, bar, line) and more complex (compound, radial, scatter) graphs should be used to present primary and secondary data.</p> <p>Appropriate ways should be used to present qualitative data.</p>
5. Analysis and explanation	<p>Primary and secondary data should be analysed for meaning, both individually and together, to draw out links, contrasts and comparisons.</p>
6. Coming to conclusions	<p>Conclusions drawn should relate to the extent to which the results from the investigation fit accepted theories and whether there are any further implications of the results for people and the environment. Conclusions must draw on both primary and secondary evidence, and learners must consider anomalous and/or unexpected results.</p>
7. Reflecting on data, methods and conclusions	<p>Learners should include the accuracy and reliability of primary and secondary data and the extent to which conclusions are reliable. They should analyse possible ways to improve results and consider the extent to which these data collection techniques could be used for other fieldwork investigations.</p>

Appendix 7: Health and safety in the field

All centres must comply with their local and national rules/guidance, laws and good practice relating to health and safety, for example the requirements of relevant legislation and codes of practice in the UK, including the Department for Education document *Health and Safety: Advice on legal duties and powers for local authorities, school leaders, school staff and governing bodies*, and the Health and Safety Executive document *School Trips and Outdoor Learning Activities: Tackling the health and safety myths*.

Centres must ensure safe working is an inherent part of practical learning, for example learners know and understand the importance of ensuring their own safety and that of others. This could involve learners developing risk assessments as part of the preparation for fieldwork (Stage 3 – Design), for example by using Google Maps™ and Google Street View™ to assess likely hazards and/or risk.

Health and safety learning must include the concepts of:

- hazard – the danger that could reasonably be expected to cause harm, e.g. contact with slippery rocks next to a stream
- impact/severity – how someone might be harmed
- risk – the chance that someone will be harmed by a particular hazard, e.g. a fall, slip or trip.

For example, a risk rating can be developed, based on likelihood and severity (or worst case outcome). When working in a river, the likelihood of slipping on wet rocks may be described as ‘infrequent’ (a score of 3/5), while the severity could be ‘injury’ (a score of 3/5). These two together give a risk-rating score of 9/25 ($3 \times 3/5 \times 5$), which would indicate that a control should be in place to minimise the chance of injury through slipping.

Additional support on this aspect of the specification is available in the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Geography (Modular) teacher support materials.

Appendix 8: Transferable skills

The need for transferable skills

In recent years, higher-education institutions and employers have consistently flagged the need for learners to develop a range of transferable skills to enable them to respond with confidence to the demands of undergraduate study and the world of work.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) defines skills, or competencies, as ‘the bundle of knowledge, attributes and capacities that can be learned and that enable individuals to successfully and consistently perform an activity or task and can be built upon and extended through learning.’^[1]

To support the design of our qualifications, the Pearson Research Team selected and evaluated seven global 21st-century skills frameworks. Following on from this process, we identified the National Research Council’s (NRC) framework ^[2] as the most evidence-based and robust skills framework, and have used this as a basis for our adapted skills framework.

The framework includes cognitive, intrapersonal skills and interpersonal skills.

The NRC framework is included alongside literacy and numeracy skills.



The skills have been interpreted for this specification to ensure they are appropriate for the subject. All of the skills listed are evident or accessible in the teaching, learning and/or assessment of the qualification. Some skills are directly assessed. Pearson materials will support you in identifying these skills and developing these skills in learners.

The table on the next page sets out the framework and gives an indication of the skills that can be found in geography and indicates the interpretation of the skill in this area. A full subject interpretation of each skill, with mapping to show opportunities for learners’ development is provided on the subject pages of our website: qualifications.pearson.com.

¹ OECD – *Better Skills, Better Jobs, Better Lives* (OECD Publishing, 2012)

² Koenig, J A, National Research Council – *Assessing 21st Century Skills: Summary of a Workshop* (National Academies Press, 2011)

Cognitive skills	Cognitive processes and strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical thinking • Problem solving • Analysis • Reasoning/argumentation • Interpretation • Decision making • Adaptive learning • Executive function 	<p>Critical thinking for using geographical concepts to synthesise information collected from the geographical enquiry to make judgements.</p>
	Creativity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creativity • Innovation 	
Intrapersonal skills	Intellectual openness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptability • Personal and social responsibility • Continuous learning • Intellectual interest and curiosity 	<p>Initiative for using different forms of media to investigate real world events, without guided learning.</p>
	Work ethic/ conscientiousness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiative • Self-direction • Responsibility • Perseverance • Productivity • Self-regulation (metacognition, forethought, reflection) • Ethics • Integrity 	
	Positive core self-evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-monitoring/self-evaluation/self-reinforcement 	
Interpersonal skills	Teamwork and collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication • Collaboration • Teamwork • Cooperation • Empathy/perspective taking • Negotiation 	<p>Collaboration for peer reviewing the work of others to offer constructive feedback.</p>
	Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibility • Assertive communication • Self-presentation 	

Appendix 9: Glossary

Term	Definition
Assessment objectives	The requirements that learners need to meet to succeed in the qualification. Each assessment objective has a unique focus, which is then targeted in examinations or non-examined assessment (NEA). Assessment objectives may be assessed individually or in combination.
Cash-in codes	Cash-in codes are used in combination with entry codes to aggregate the learner's unit scores to obtain the overall grade for the qualification.
Entry codes	To enter the learner for their examination, unit codes are used as entry codes. To obtain the overall grade for the qualification, entry codes are used in combination with cash-in codes.
External assessment	Assessment set and marked by an awarding organisation, taken by centres at the same time in the global region.
JCQ	Joint Council for Qualifications. This is a group of UK exam boards which develops policy related to the administration of examinations.
Modular	Modular qualifications contain units of assessment. These units can be taken during the course of study. The final qualification grade is worked out from the combined unit results.
Uniform mark scale (UMS)	A learner's actual marks (or raw marks) will be converted into a UMS mark so that it is possible to see the proportionate result of a learner. The raw marks for each unit may differ, but the uniform mark will be the same.
Unit	A modular qualification will be divided into a number of units. Each unit will have its own assessment.
Unit codes	Each unit is assigned a unit code. This unit code is used as an entry code to indicate that a learner wishes to take the assessment for a particular unit.

For information about Pearson Qualifications, including Pearson Edexcel, BTEC and LCCI qualifications visit [qualifications.pearson.com](https://www.pearson.com/qualifications)

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