



Geography

GCSE GEOGRAPHY 2012



CSE GEOG INTRODUCTIO

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By studying contemporary themes and issues that reflect the real world, you can be sure that our GCSE Geography A specification addresses the current needs of the subject, while also capturing the imagination and interest of you and your learners.

Some further benefits that our GCSE Geography A specification offers you and your learners are:

A lively and innovative specification based on a successful three-year pilot that OCR ran in association with the Geographical Association.

- Added emphasis on some of the issues facing society today, such as sustainability, globalisation and uneven development. Learners will find the relevance to everyday life refreshing and interesting. They'll find it engaging to study, and it will be more interesting for you to teach.
- The opportunity to appeal to learners by allowing them to use creative methods to present their work, i.e. reflective journals, poems and videos – this way your learners will be able to tailor their presentations to suit their learning style, which can motivate them.
- Encouragement to understand different concepts and environments – this will develop transferable skills which are an ideal preparation for employment and further education.
- Develop an appreciation of, and a caring attitude towards, the environment – meaning that learners will live the course rather than simply studying it and become more motivated.
- A full support package has been designed to save you preparation time and to increase your confidence in teaching and marking the new Geography A specification. You can find out more about our support package on **page 9**.



GEOGRAPHY A

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Unit title and description	Assessment and duration	Weighting
Unit A731: Contemporary Themes in Geography This question paper has three compulsory themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme 1: Extreme Environments • Theme 2: The Global Citizen • Theme 3: Similarities and Differences in Settlements and Population Learners answer all questions.	Written paper 1 hour 45 minutes 112 marks (12 SPaG marks)	50%
Unit A732: Geographical Skills	Written paper 1 hour 15 minutes 50 marks	25%
Unit A733: Local Geographical Investigation Local Geographical Investigation uses the collection of primary data.	Controlled assessment 50 marks 2,000 word assessment under controlled conditions. Learners complete one from a choice of four tasks.	25%

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

The assessments are designed to reflect the non-statutory guidelines for Geography A. Learners are expected to demonstrate the following:

- **AO1** Recall, select and communicate their knowledge and understanding of places, environments and concepts.

- **AO2** Apply their knowledge and understanding in familiar and unfamiliar contexts.
- **AO3** Select and use a variety of skills, techniques and technologies to investigate, analyse and evaluate questions and issues.



CSE GEOGRAPHY B

Our GCSE Geography B specification contains traditional aspects of Geography with modern day issues to reflect the ever changing world of Geography.

Benefits that our GCSE Geography B offers you and your learners are:

- A familiar approach to the subject, as the qualification covers four themes of Geography – rivers and coasts, population and settlement, natural hazards, and economic development.
- A balance of theoretical and practical work, encouraging an active involvement in the subject, which aims to enthuse and stimulate interest among the learners and means that more learners will be encouraged to study it.
- An ideal foundation for learners who want to pursue Geography at A Level or as a career, as it covers a wide range of topics to ensure that they become well-rounded geographers, with skills required by the sector.
- The opportunity to appeal to learners by allowing them to use creative methods to present their work i.e. reflective journals, poems and videos. This way your learners will be able to tailor their presentations to suit their learning style, which can motivate them.
- An understanding of global geographical issues and how to apply this to a range of contexts, meaning that learners' real-life skills are developed and become relevant to future decision making. It's an excellent start for learners to develop practical Geography skills that are transferable.
- Learners are prepared with real skills (such as map reading) and the use of new technologies, like GIS. This can help motivate them as they can see how their skills fit into the modern world and an ideal preparation for employment or further study.
- A full support package has been designed to save you preparation time and to increase your confidence in teaching and marking the new Geography B specification. You can find out more about our support package on **page 9**.



GEOGRAPHY B

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Unit title and description	Assessment and duration	Weighting
Unit B561: Sustainable Decision Making Exercise	Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes 40 marks	25%
Learners answer all questions		
Unit B562: Geographical Enquiry	Controlled assessment 60 marks	25%
<p>Fieldwork Focus uses the collection of primary data and the production of a report. Learners complete a 2,000 word assessment under controlled conditions covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting the scene • Method(s) of data collection • Data presentation and analysis 		
Evaluation and conclusion		
Unit B563: Key Geographical Themes	Written paper 1 hour 45 minutes 99 marks (9 SPaG marks)	50%
<p>This question paper has three sections. Learners are required to answer all questions.</p>		

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

The assessments are designed to reflect the non-statutory guidelines for Geography B. Learners are expected to demonstrate the following:

- **AO1** Recall, select and communicate their knowledge and understanding of places, environments and concepts.
- **AO2** Apply their knowledge and understanding in familiar and unfamiliar contexts.
- **AO3** Select and use a variety of skills, techniques and technologies to investigate, analyse and evaluate questions and issues.

GCSE GEOGRAPHY SHORT COURSE

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Unit title and description	Assessment and duration	Weighting
<p>Unit A771: Geographical Enquiry</p> <p>Fieldwork Focus uses the collection of primary data and the production of a report. Learners complete a 2,000 word assessment under controlled conditions covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Setting the scene• Method(s) of data collection• Data presentation and analysis• Evaluation and conclusion.	<p>Controlled assessment 60 marks</p>	<p>50%</p>
<p>Unit A772: Key Geographical Themes</p>	<p>Written paper 1 hour 15 minutes 66 marks (6 SPaG marks)</p> <p>This question paper has two sections: Learners are required to answer all questions. Externally assessed</p>	<p>50%</p>

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

The assessments are designed to reflect the non-statutory guidelines for Geography Short Course. Learners are expected to demonstrate the following:

- **AO1** Recall, select and communicate their knowledge and understanding of places, environments and concepts.
- **AO2** Apply their knowledge and understanding in familiar and unfamiliar contexts.
- **AO3** Select and use a variety of skills, techniques and technologies to investigate, analyse and evaluate questions and issues.

Benefits of our GCSE Geography Short Course for you and your learners:

- Equivalent of half a GCSE.
- There are only two units to complete.
- Learners who are interested in Geography, but don't have time to study a full course, have more learning options.
- Learners can study a wider range of subjects.
- Timetabling for shorter courses can be easier for your centre.
- More able learners can complement their studies by taking the Geography B short course as an additional subject.
- The Geography short course offers more flexibility – learners can study it over one or two years.



GCSE 2012 CHANGES TO ASSESSMENT

The Government has now confirmed that unitised GCSEs, will be replaced by linear assessment for candidates starting a two-year course from September 2012.

The reforms are designed to:

- Ensure that GCSE examinations are taken at the end of the course by making all assessment linear.
- Remove the potential for re-sitting individual units, meaning that examinations for Geography will only take place in the June series.

WHAT THIS MEANS

- Candidates who start a two-year course in September 2012 will take all of their GCSE units in June 2014 at the end of their course and in the same series that they will certificate for their qualification.
- These changes will not affect any candidates on a two-year course that started in September 2011, or candidates who start a one-year course in September 2012, who will still be able to enter in a unitised way.
- They will have an impact on Year 9 candidates who started a three-year programme in September 2011. These candidates will now be required to take all of their assessment in June 2014.

RE-TAKES/RE-SITS

The introduction of linear GCSEs will also prevent the mid-course re-sitting of units:

- Candidates who started a two-year course in September 2011 and are certificating in June 2013 will have the opportunity to re-sit a whole qualification by taking all their external assessments in the same sitting; in the June 2014 series where linear assessment rules apply. They will, however, be able to carry forward their most recent results used for certification from controlled assessment unit(s).
- Candidates starting a two-year course in September 2012 and who are certificating in June 2014 will have the opportunity to re-sit a whole qualification in the June 2015 series where linear assessment rules apply.
- There will be additional opportunities for candidates to re-take complete English, English Language and Maths GCSEs in a November 2013 examination series, where a 40% terminal rule applies. From November 2014, the linear 100% terminal rule will apply. These subjects are seen to be the most critical GCSEs for all progression paths. There is an expected demand for an additional opportunity to re-sit exams in these subjects.

For more information about the changes to GCSEs from 2012, visit www.ocr.org.uk/gcse2012



SUPPORT

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO SUPPORT YOU

Our aim is to help you at every stage and we work in close consultation with teachers and other experts to provide a practical package of high-quality resources and support.

We provide everything you need to teach our specifications with confidence and ensure that your students get as much as possible from our qualifications.

Our support materials are designed to save you time while you prepare for and teach our specifications. In response to what you have told us, we are offering detailed guidance on key topics, controlled assessment and curriculum planning.

Visit www.ocr.org.uk/gcse2012 to access all of our support by selecting the qualification you require.

Our essential FREE support includes:

Materials and resources

- Specimen assessment materials and mark schemes
- Guide to controlled assessment
- Sample controlled assessment material
- Exemplar candidate work
- Teacher's handbook
- Sample schemes of work and lesson plans
- Guide to curriculum planning
- Past papers.

Visit www.ocr.org.uk/gcse2012 to access all of our support by selecting the qualification you require.

OCR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME - MORE ACCESSIBLE, MORE COST-EFFECTIVE, SAME VALUED CONTENT

Here at OCR we are constantly looking for ways to improve the support we offer to teachers. Most recently we have been considering the increasing challenges that schools face in releasing teachers for INSET, and how OCR can make its professional development programme more accessible and convenient for all.

FROM SEPTEMBER 2012, OUR NEW IMPROVED PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE:

FREE online professional development units available when and where you want them

If you want to better understand the specification or keep abreast of information about previous examinations and important changes, then these are for you.

- **Available online 24/7** – view the training at a time and place to suit you
- **Free to access** – no travel or training costs, but the same helpful support and advice
- **Self-contained learning** – manage your own learning, so that you get a more focused and personalised experience – and return to it at any time

FREE live web broadcasts of professional development events

Through webinars, studio discussions or multi-site broadcasts, these events will give you a chance to have your questions answered directly by OCR's qualification and assessment experts.

- **Interactive** – you can submit your queries prior to or during the broadcast for an immediate response
- **Live** – hear advice and guidance straight from OCR staff and Senior Assessors, with options to attend in person or watch online
- **Skills improvement** – focussing on improving your delivery skills and understanding of OCR qualifications

A series of 'not to be missed' premier professional development events

Large-scale, subject-specific events focused on keeping you up to date with the latest developments in your subject area, innovative classroom delivery and reigniting your passion for teaching.

- **Professional development** – new insights and ideas from leaders in their field
- **Networking** – opportunities to interact with a large number of subject-specialist teachers
- **Cost-effective** – reduced cost for teachers to attend these high-impact events
- **Face-to-face** – a reduced portfolio of more traditional INSET events
- **Training sessions** – to help you understand and manage controlled assessment and to support some vocational courses.

WHAT TO DO NEXT?

- **Visit ocronlinetraining.org.uk** to keep up to date with all the latest information about our new programme.
- **Sign up for updates at ocr.org.uk/updates** and be the first to find out about our exciting professional development programme.

NEED MORE HELP?

You can contact our team at **professionaldevelopment@ocr.org.uk** who will be happy to help.



SERVICES

Answers @ OCR is a web-based service where you can access specific up-to-date information, browse hot topics and FAQs, or email us with your questions. Visit <http://answers.ocr.org.uk>

Active Results for GCSE is a free online results analysis service to help you review the performance of individual students or your whole school. Active Results provides access to detailed results data, enabling more comprehensive analysis of results in order to give you a more accurate measure of the achievements of your centre and individual students. For more information, go to www.ocr.org.uk/activeresults

OCR Interchange is a secure website for centres that offers a variety of services for Exams Officers and teachers, including the ability to carry out day-to-day administrative online functions quickly and efficiently.

OCR social network is a free platform where teachers can engage with each other – and with OCR – to share ideas and best practice, offer guidance, and access a range of support materials produced by other teachers. To sign up, go to <http://social.ocr.org.uk>



A FEW GOOD REASONS TO WORK WITH OCR

- You can enjoy the **freedom and excitement** of teaching qualifications that have been developed to help you inspire students of all abilities.
- We've built specifications **with you in mind**, using a clear and easy-to-understand format, making them straightforward for you to deliver.
- Our **clear and sensible assessment** approach means that exam papers and requirements are clearly presented and sensibly structured for you and your students.
- **Pathways for choice** – we have the broadest range of qualifications and our GCSEs provide an ideal foundation for students to progress to more advanced studies and into the workplace.
- **Working in partnership to support you** – together with teachers we've developed a range of practical help and support to save you time. We provide everything you need to teach our specifications with confidence and ensure that your students get as much as possible from our qualifications.
- **A personal service** – as well as providing you with lots of support resources, we're also here to help you with specialist advice, guidance and support for those times when you simply need a more individual service.

OUR AIM IS TO ASSIST YOU HOWEVER WE CAN

As well as providing you with a wide range of support services and resources to pick and choose from, we're also here to help you with specialist advice, guidance and support for those times when you simply need a more individual service.

HERE'S HOW TO CONTACT US FOR SPECIALIST ADVICE:

By phone: 01223 553998

By email: general.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

By online: <http://answers.ocr.org.uk>

By fax: 01223 552627

By post: Customer Contact Centre, OCR, Progress House, Westwood Business Park, Coventry CV4 8JQ

DON'T FORGET – you can download specifications and all our support materials at www.ocr.org.uk/gcse2012

YOUR CHECKLIST

- Bookmark www.ocr.org.uk/gcse2012
- Be among the first to hear about support materials and resources as they become available. Register for email updates at www.ocr.org.uk/updates
- Access FREE online training and book onto courses at www.ocronlinetraining.org.uk
- Learn more about Active Results at www.ocr.org.uk/activeresults
- Join our social network community for teachers at www.social.ocr.org.uk

Contact us

Keep up to date on the latest news by registering to receive e-alerts at www.ocr.org.uk/updates

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