

Your guide to the changes for 2021

Following an [Ofqual consultation](#), we have made changes to a number of our qualifications.

The changes are designed to reduce the pressure on teachers and students in the 2020/21 academic year, and to safeguard against ongoing public health concerns.

Please [use the specification on our website](#) alongside this document which shows how our qualifications will differ in summer 2021.

Overview of changes for AS Level Geography (H081)

Ofqual have confirmed that students taking AS Level Geography in summer 2021:

- will **not** be asked questions during the exams in relation to their own fieldwork experience.
- **will** still be asked questions during the exams on unfamiliar fieldwork but will have the flexibility to answer questions in relation to either human or physical geography.
- Centres do **not** need to sign a Fieldwork Statement confirming that fieldwork has taken place over at least two days.

We will be producing updated Sample Assessment Material, for Component 01, to show how the assessment will look in 2021.

To prepare students for the unfamiliar fieldwork questions, teachers should still provide students with the opportunity to engage with the fieldwork skills and fieldwork where possible, whether that is 'in the field' or through virtual fieldwork (classroom based). 'In the field' could include the school grounds and local area (to the school or student's home). Further information and support can be found on the [OCR website](#).

AS Level Geography (H081) for academic year 2020/21

Students must still complete all components to be awarded an AS Level in geography in **summer 2021**.

There has been no change to the specification content (topics to be covered). The geographical skills (on page 35 of the specification) and fieldwork skills (page 36) still need to be taught.

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape systems • Changing Spaces; Making Places • Fieldwork • Geographical skills 	<p>Landscape and place (01)</p> <p>70 marks</p> <p>1 hour 30 minute written paper</p>	<p>51% of total AS Level</p>
<p>Optionality – study 1 of 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change • Disease Dilemmas • Exploring Oceans • Future of Food • Hazardous Earth • Geographical skills 	<p>Geographical debates (02)</p> <p>68 marks</p> <p>1 hour 30 minute written paper</p>	<p>49% of total AS Level</p>

There will be no changes to Component 02 and the changes to Component 01 are only in relation to fieldwork (section C).

The table above shows the assessment overview for 2021. The changes are:

- The qualification total has changed from 150 to 138 marks.
- The component weightings have changed, Component 01 from 55% to 51% and Component 02 from 45% to 49%.

The following information refers to **Component 01 only**:

- We will remove the 12-mark question which relates to the student's own fieldwork experience.
- There will **still be** questions related to **unfamiliar fieldwork** contexts in section C. The questions will be in the same style as those shown in the Sample Assessment Materials, and the past papers from 2017, 2018 and 2019.
- The exam paper has reduced in marks from 82 to **70 marks**. This is to reflect the removal of the own fieldwork question.
- The duration of the exam paper has changed from 1 hour and 45 minutes to **1 hour and 30 minutes** (because own fieldwork questions have been removed).

What has changed?

What has changed – SAMs	Detail
<i>Sample Assessment Material</i>	<p>In Component 01 section C, the final 12-mark question related to the student's own fieldwork has been removed.</p> <p>Students will still be asked questions on unfamiliar fieldwork but will have the flexibility to answer questions in relation to either human or physical geography.</p>
What has changed – Specification	Detail
<i>Fieldwork</i>	There is no longer a requirement to cover physical and human geography fieldwork.
<i>Fieldwork written statement</i>	Centres do not need to sign a Fieldwork Statement confirming that fieldwork has taken place over at least two days.

Support

OCR's team of expert Subject Advisors has created videos, webinars, and other resources to guide you through these changes and help you prepare your students for their exams in summer 2021.

These resources can be found [here](#).

Contact Us

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