

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 A Level Geology (H414)

Ofqual have confirmed students taking an A Level in Geology in summer 2021 should still aim to complete a minimum of 12 practical activities covering the Common Practical Assessment Criteria (CPAC).

- All assessments remain the same - there will be no changes to the exam content
- A minimum of 15% of marks in the written examinations will still test the practical skills in module 1.1 of the specification, including apparatus and techniques covered through the course of the Practical Endorsement.
- Centres are **not** required to submit a written statement confirming that they have given students the opportunity to undertake 4 mandatory days of fieldwork.
- Exam boards can carry out remote Practical Endorsement monitoring visits.

A Level Geology for academic year 2020/21

Students should still aim to complete a minimum of 12 practical activities covering the CPAC requirements, section 1.2.1 of our [specification](#), and all apparatus and techniques.

We understand that imposed limitations to protect public health, such as localised school closures, may make meeting the usual Practical Endorsement requirements difficult for some Centres. In such cases, students may still be awarded a Pass in the Practical Endorsement if they have demonstrated competence in all of our 1.2.1 specification criteria and the CPAC, even if they haven't completed the usual minimum requirement of 12 practicals. In all circumstances, it is important that students are still taught about any apparatus and techniques they are unable to cover, as they will still be expected to answer questions about these in the examinations.

The requirement for a written statement confirming you have given students the opportunity to undertake 4 mandatory days of fieldwork at A Level has been removed. You should still try and meet the fieldwork requirements if you can. The requirements can also be achieved in a local or laboratory setting rather than out on location.

If you are unable to meet the fieldwork requirements, you still need to teach the relevant techniques to your students as they will still be expected to answer questions about these in the examinations.

A 2021 version of the NEA Centre Declaration Form will still need to be signed. Reference to fieldwork will be removed but you will still be expected to confirm that reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that students have had the opportunity to carry out practical activities.

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

If you would like to contact us, you can do so at: _

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