

GCSE Geography support and guidance for 2021 examination only

AQA, Pearson Edexcel, Eduqas and OCR have worked together to provide guidance about fieldwork and to highlight support available.

What has changed for the 2021 examination?

- There is no requirement for centres to provide a written declaration that students have been given the opportunity to undertake two fieldwork occasions.
- There will be no examination questions directly relating to candidates own fieldwork. There will be questions associated with an unfamiliar fieldwork context

What has stayed the same?

- There will still be questions relating to 'unfamiliar' fieldwork from both physical and human environments which will assume that candidates are acquainted with the enquiry process.
- The subject content in the specification and the examination of this content i.e. students will need to cover the relevant topics, geographical skills checklist, as well as understand the enquiry process.

What does this mean for teachers and students?

- Each Awarding Organisation will notify teachers of the specific changes to their GCSE examinations.
- Teachers need to prepare students to answer questions on 'unfamiliar' fieldwork. These questions are already on the examination papers from previous years.
- Teachers will need to provide students with the opportunity to understand the enquiry process in order to answer questions in the exam with an unfamiliar fieldwork context. This could be achieved through virtual fieldwork or classroom activities whilst teaching content from the specification.
- Teachers can still provide students with the opportunity to engage with fieldwork (though this is not essential). If centres choose to carry out fieldwork 'in the field', the school grounds and local area may be the most appropriate locations.
- 'Local' might be in terms of the school or the students' homes.

What do we mean by virtual / remote fieldwork?

Virtual fieldwork provides an opportunity for geographical enquiry and the use of fieldwork skills without having to visit a location.

The enquiry process can be followed, which could include the collection of data, images and the development of a sense of place. For example, this can take place through the use of media, photographs, interviews and recordings and through online platforms such as Google Maps, Google Street View and OS maps.

Each awarding organisation will offer additional support, guidance and resources on their respective websites.

Subject Community Support

Links and resources to support the teaching of fieldwork inside and outside the classroom.

Field Studies Council (FSC)

[GCSE Fieldwork support from FSC for AOs.pdf](#)

Geographical Association

- [Virtual fieldwork overview](#)
- [‘It’s virtually a glacier’, Alice Matthews, Spring 2020](#)
- [Geography Education Online \(GEO\)](#)
- [Geographical enquiry in the Classroom](#)
- [Enquiry question generator](#)
- [Critical Thinking in the Classroom](#)

Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)

- [Fieldwork resources](#) (*most are open access though some require membership*)
- [Google Education](#)
- The ideas from [Encounter](#) will be of interest
- [Archive of lessons](#) produced by Encounter and the FSC