

WJEC GCSE GEOGRAPHY BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2023

Welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful summer, got a good break from teaching and are back in schools ready to go for the new academic year. This bulletin provides some important information and links to resources to support you with the delivery of the specification for this academic year. We hope you find these useful to support your teaching, departmental teams and most importantly your learners.

TEACHING FOR 2023-2024

Just to confirm that there will be no Advanced Information and no adaptations to any of the upcoming exams or teaching content in 2023/24. All courses are back to the 2019 'normal' as of this academic year.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING EVENTS

We have online and face to face sessions planned for the Autumn term, details of all can be found in the Professional Learning section of our website.

Online sessions:

Tuesday 17th October: 4pm to 6pm on Teams, covering 'Feedback on Summer Assessments'.

This session will run concurrently in English and Welsh.

Face to Face Sessions:

Tuesday 5th December in Cardiff & Thursday 7th December in Mold: These sessions will not be exam feedback based and will focus on subject updates, raising attainment and updating your skills. They will hopefully enthuse you to look at your GCSE Geography teaching in new and different ways! The Cardiff session will also be run in Welsh and the whole session will be run in Welsh at the CYDAG day in North Wales on Friday 8th December at a venue still to be confirmed.

Examiners reports and Online Exam Review material can be found on the website as well and are as ever very useful resources for you to use in your reviews and planning this year.

FIELDWORK & UNIT 3 NEA UPDATE

It's worth a reminder here that learners should ideally undertake two fieldwork investigations in contrasting locations for the NEA. Many of you have enquired about this recently however and we can confirm that it is possible to do the two pieces of fieldwork in one day at the same location, for example a study on Llandudno beach in the morning and a different study in Llandudno CBD in the afternoon, if this is easier for you to organise in your centres. You are still required to complete two days of fieldwork and include these on the centre declarations, but

the second day can be undertaken at any time in the year and can be used to support learning during the course for example.

For the 2024 series (assessed in Autumn 2023), learners should focus on the Methodological Approach of Qualitative Surveys and the Conceptual Framework of Cycles and Flows. Learners must complete their portfolios of work by 31st October 2023. These must be then stored securely and only made available to learners when they sit their assessment. The assessment must be taken over 2 hours and 30 minutes between 1st November and 31st December 2023.

GA CONFERENCE 2024

An early reminder for your diaries – the 2024 Geographical Association Conference will be held from 4th to 6th April at the University of Manchester. We will be there as always with a stand and a couple of sessions/lectures. It's always an excellent event and is invaluable CPD so it would be great to see a lot of WJEC Geographers there and meet many of you in person for the first time.

EDI SPECIFICATION OVERVIEWS

We have a superb overview document written by Hina Robinson, Teacher of Geography and Diversity Lead at Southend High School for Girls. Hina is also going to be President of the Geographical Association for 2024/25. This document gives detailed and up-to-date guidance to teachers on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and where to consider it alongside suggested background material within the course. The document has notes, links and key information to cover the whole specifications and can be found here: WJEC [Resource WJEC Educational Resources Website](#)

DIGITAL RESOURCES

Visit the Digital Resources website (<https://resources.wjec.co.uk/>) to access a variety of resources that can be used to support learning and teaching of GCSE Geography in the classroom or as part of a blended/flipped learning programme. Popular examples include Blended Learning modules, Knowledge Organisers, Accuracy, Reliability, and Validity in fieldwork and developing more effective fieldwork investigations.

EXAMINING FOR WJEC

There will be opportunities to become an appointee and examine for WJEC in summer 2024, especially for Units 1 and 3. As an Examiner, you will gain invaluable insight into the assessment process at WJEC, enhance your skill set, and increase your understanding of the subject content. All examiner training conferences in 2024 will be held online via Teams. We welcome Welsh medium applications for all Units. Please register your interest now. Full details can be found on our Appointees page at <https://appointees.wjec.co.uk>.

CYNEFIN MAGAZINE

Unfortunately, the third edition of 'Cynefin', our digital WJEC Geography magazine was not produced last year. However, we still aim to continue with this publication and would welcome contributions from students and teachers (GCSE and GCE). These could be articles on pedagogy, subject knowledge updates or reflections on how to tackle the coming year. We would also love to hear your thoughts on what you would like to see covered in our next issue. Please get in touch if you would like to get involved. Back issues can be found in the Resources for Teachers tab on the WJEC GCSE Geography website.

All the best with the teaching for the new year. Please get in touch if we can assist you in any way.

Rob and Amy

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