

AUTUMN 2021 NEWSLETTER

A LEVEL GEOLOGY

New Resources available on the Eduqas Geology website

Exam Walk Throughs: These are powerpoint presentations, with a commentary, offering candidates some thoughts on how to answer the questions within the Eduqas A level Components. Exam Walk Throughs for A level Components 2 and 3 2019 are now available on the website, to add to that for A level Component 1 2019 which has been available for more than a year. Candidates can pause the presentations, answer the questions and then hear comments reflecting on answers and the mark scheme.

Knowledge Organisers: A bank of knowledge organisers to support the learning of AS/A level Geology are being written and will become available on the website later in the academic year. These could be used for revision or as a starting point for creating your own knowledge organisers.

CPD: Live Webinar

This year's CPD will be delivered online and is designed for practitioners teaching **Eduqas GCSE/AS/A Level Geology**. The 1½ hour session will explore strategies for developing teaching and learning, focussing on the use of video lessons in flipped learning, and the teaching of mapwork. It will take place on Wednesday 10th November 4-5.30pm.

More details of the course and how to enrol are shown at the link below.

[GCSE and A Level Geology: Strategies for teaching and learning](#)

Adaptations to the assessments in 2022

Following the Ofqual consultation on adaptations to assessments in summer 2022, the adaptations that will apply to the GCE assessments in summer 2022 are outlined under the 'Adaptations 2022' section on the Eduqas AS/A level Geology webpage.

Fieldwork - The requirement that centres have given learners the opportunity to undertake 2/4 mandatory days of fieldwork at AS/ 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 lab 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 learners as they will still be expected to answer questions about these in the examinations. This applies to candidates entering for the summer 2022 examination series only.

Practical work - Centres will be allowed to deliver practical work in AS Geology by demonstration. Centres should continue to make available hands-on practical activities for their students wherever possible. You still need to teach the relevant practical techniques to your learners as they will still be expected to answer questions about these in the examinations. This applies to candidates entering for the summer 2022 examination series only.

The Practical Endorsement

Changes to the Practical Endorsement for awarding in summer 2022

For details of the changes to the Practical Endorsement for awarding in summer 2022 please refer to the 'Adaptations' tab on the Eduqas AS/A level Geology webpage.

As last year, centres will be allowed to assess the Common Practical Assessment Criteria (CPAC) across the minimum number of practical activities required to enable students to demonstrate their competence in A level Geology. This applies to candidates entering for the summer 2022 examination series only.

Remember that your candidates entering for the A level examination in 2022 may make use of the 'Lab based fieldwork exercise for the Practical Endorsement' in the Practical Endorsement section of the Key Documents.

Training

It is a requirement that the lead teacher in each centre following the WJEC Eduqas A level Geology specification has undergone some form of training. For lead teachers who have not yet undertaken face to face training or online training, (perhaps because you have only started teaching the Eduqas A level Geology specification since October 2020) it is imperative that you undergo online training by reading each of the Practical Endorsement training documents available at [Eduqas AS/A level Geology key documents](#)

If you are then unclear about any aspects regarding the practical endorsement, please e mail geology@eduqas.co.uk for further advice.

Information re Monitoring Visits

Each centre teaching A level Geology and entering candidates for the Eduqas A level Geology examinations in 2022 will need to have been 'visited' during the period October 2020 to March 2022. The monitoring of the Practical Endorsement will be undertaken remotely during the academic year 2021-2022, as in the previous academic year. Arrangements for this will be sent out to those centres who were not visited in the previous academic year. This will also include centres new to teaching Eduqas Geology in September 2021. The procedures for the monitoring visits will be the same as for the other A level Sciences. A practical endorsement monitor will contact you in due course.

Intention to Enter

In order for the awarding organisations to arrange monitoring visits it is a requirement that each centre informs the relevant awarding organisation that they are intending to teach their specification. All Eduqas A level Geology centres must have contacted matthew.roberts@eduqas.co.uk to register their intention to teach and enter candidates for the Eduqas specification. If you have not previously done this, perhaps because you have only embarked on teaching the Eduqas specification relatively recently, you must register with Matthew Roberts without delay.

Email contact

If you have subject specific enquiries, then please make contact with the Geology team by using the e mail address geology@eduqas.co.uk. The Subject Support Officer for Geology is Matthew Roberts.