

## GCE Geography bulletin, September 2019

Croeso nô! I hope you had a relaxing summer break and that you and your candidates were pleased with the exam results published last month. This is the first of four bulletins that will be sent to subscribers this year, detailing important dates and keeping you informed of the latest developments in terms of resources and guidance. As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with me via phone or email.

### 2019 RESULTS

The papers and mark schemes for all Units are now available to view on our [Geography website](#). If you don't have access to the relevant pages, please contact your Exams Officer, who will be able to grant you the appropriate permissions via a new password.

The 19<sup>th</sup> of September is the last date where a review of marking and/or moderation can be requested. Electronic copies of scripts from your centre can be requested up to the 26<sup>th</sup> of September. Please see our [website](#) for more details of our post-results services.

WJEC offers two services to help you understand your students' results and develop their exam skills: Exam Results Analysis and Online Exam Review.

**Exam Results Analysis** (Item Level Data) on the [secure website](#) allows you to compare your students' performance on each question with that of the candidature overall, letting you see where they have done well and where there might be room for improvement.

[Online Exam Review](#) provides a number of marked exemplars of candidate responses to key questions in an interactive format. These can be used as teaching resources, allowing students to mark others' work and discuss ways in which it may be improved, thus developing their own skills. Exemplars from the summer examinations will be uploaded during this first half-term period.

### EXAMINER REPORTS

The Principal Examiner reports provide detailed feedback on candidate performance in each Unit and are now available on the website subject page.

### INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION FEEDBACK

Once again, some truly excellent work was seen and we would like to thank centres for all their hard work. Further marked exemplars will be made available on the secure website over the coming weeks. We are also developing a fully annotated mark scheme that will be published shortly to give additional help and guidance on applying the marking criteria effectively and consistently when marking work.

As many of you will currently be preparing students for 2020 submissions, I would like to take this opportunity to remind centres of a few important points regarding the NEA:

- In some instances, greater use could still be made of the **Student Proposal Form**. This should form the basis for a dialogue between candidate and teacher. These discussions should ensure that the candidate has an appropriate and manageable title. Many are still attempting too much at the outset
- Please refer to the [exemplar proposal forms and guidance](#) provided on the open and secure websites for further details on how to guide your candidates appropriately. Where a centre is uncertain of the suitability of a particular title, please use the **Title Advice Service** that we offer. The Title Advice Form is available in the 'Related Documents' section of the WJEC GCE Geography website

- Each individual candidate must complete their proposal form in full **before** collecting any data
- **Teacher annotations** should be concise and **clearly linked to the marking criteria**. Rather than being descriptive of the work, they should focus on the quality of what is being marked when judged against the criteria
- Many students still write far more than the guided 3-4,000 words. Often, this is a direct result of a candidate attempting too much or having too broad a focus for their title. Teachers should guide students to refine titles and narrow them down where necessary so that the fieldwork and write-up is manageable within the word count and the time they have available.

**2020** Independent Investigation samples will need to be submitted by **Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> of March**.

## NEW RESOURCES

- Student Guide 6: Contemporary Themes in Geography is now available via the Hodder website [here](#)
- Going Places (Geography online magazine from WJEC) published via the website at the end of September. This will contain an array of articles to assist with coverage of WJEC Geography specifications. If you would be interested in contributing an article to the next issue – please get in touch!
- Developing AO3 skills with students – digital resource published this autumn.

## WJEC CPD DATES 2019

The CPD dates this autumn will focus on developing geographical skills at both GCSE and GCE level. There will not be separate dates for both specifications. The morning workshop will give practical advice on developing fieldwork skills at GCSE and beyond. The afternoon session will focus on developing decision-making skills and evaluative writing, and will look at ways to ensure progression from GCSE to A level. Both Paul Evans (GCSE Subject Officer) and myself will be at each event and will be available to answer any questions you may have.

Llandudno	6 <sup>th</sup> November
Cardiff	12 <sup>th</sup> November
Llanelli	13 <sup>th</sup> November

Very best wishes,

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