

WJEC GCSE GEOGRAPHY BULLETIN

JANUARY 2024

Happy new year to you all! We hope you had a lovely Christmas, got a good break from teaching, and enjoyed the time off with your families and loved ones. 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.

EXAMINATION DATES FOR SUMMER 2024

We can confirm the following dates for the Unit 1 and 2 exams in the summer of 2024:

- **Unit 1:** Friday 17th May (pm)
- **Unit 2:** Wednesday 5th June (am)

UNIT 3 NEA ADMINISTRATION

Firstly, don't forget that the deadline to send in the Unit 3 NEA's that all centres should have completed before Christmas is Friday 19th January. You should have plastic sacks and address labels to return the answer booklets to Treforest, please let us know if you don't have these and we can ensure they are with you in plenty of time to get them sent in. You will need to include an attendance register that contains the following:

- Your centre name and number.
- The NEA paper details (name and code).
- Candidate numbers and candidate names (ensuring that candidates have used the name shown on the register).
- Whether candidates were present or absent for the assessment.

Don't forget as well to ensure that all extra sheets (up to 5 from the portfolios, should the candidates choose to include them) are securely attached to each individual answer booklet, with candidate names & numbers and centre numbers clearly marked on each one. Then send the booklets in using the same order as the attendance register. We also need your centre fieldwork statements to be emailed to the WJEC inbox, it makes sense to do this at the same time as when you post the answer booklets.

FIELDWORK & UNIT 3 NEA UPDATE: FUTURE PLANNING

It's worth a further reminder here that learners should ideally undertake two fieldwork investigations in contrasting locations for the NEA. Many of you have enquired about this recently, and we can still 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 those of you planning ahead now the current NEA is complete, for the 2025 series (assessed in Autumn 2024), learners should focus on the Methodological Approach of Change over time and the Conceptual Framework of Place. The guidance slides for these two themes have been updated and are now available on the website, as are the slides for 2026 (assessed in Autumn 2025, the final year of teaching for this course) on Use of Transects and Inequality.

GA CONFERENCE 2024

Another 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 OVERVIEW

I would like to draw your attention once again to our superb overview document on EDI in the WJEC specification, 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

We always encourage you to 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. Fiona Rennie (our new GCSE Geography Subject Adviser, who was until recently Head of Geography at Ysgol Friars in Bangor) has been working on these resources to try and make them more accessible to centres and to promote their use in your teaching and learning. Fiona has produced an audit of all the Blended Learning resources and Knowledge Organisers and has linked them to key questions within the specification, so you can quickly and easily find the correct resource for any part of the specification you want. This will be available on the website in the new year. Online Exam Review (OER) can be found here as well, which has annotated example scripts from recent exam series (in English and Welsh – Welsh medium examples for 2023 will be available very soon) for you to use in your teaching and learning, plus for preparation and revision for the summer exams.

EXAMINING FOR WJEC

There are still opportunities to become an appointee and examine for WJEC in summer 2024, especially for Unit 1. 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. Please register your interest now. Full details can be found on our Appointees page at <https://appointees.wjec.co.uk>.

CYNEFIN MAGAZINE

The long delayed and much anticipated third edition of Cynefin, our GCSE and A Level subject magazine is in production now and will be available hopefully by February half term. We have a range of articles for you, from overviews of 2023 GCSE Geography exam units with tips from senior examiners on how to improve your grades to academic articles to support your learning on issues such as urban water security and issues with marine plastics. Back issues can be found in the Resources for Teachers tab on the WJEC GCSE Geography website.

All the best with your teaching in 2024. Please get in touch if we can assist you in any way.

Rob, Amy and Fiona

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