

WJEC GCSE GEOGRAPHY BULLETIN

APRIL 2025

A belated Happy Easter to you all! We hope you had a lovely Easter holiday, got a good break from teaching, and enjoyed the time off with your families and loved ones. This newsletter 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 2025

Firstly, a reminder for you of the dates for the Unit 1 and 2 exams in the summer of 2025:

- **Unit 1:** Tuesday 13th May (am)
- **Unit 2:** Friday 6th June (pm)

QUALIFIED FOR THE FUTURE NEW SPECIFICATION UPDATE & RESOURCES

At the time of writing this newsletter the new specification CPD sessions are on the go, at the time of you reading it they will have finished! We hope you enjoyed these days across Wales as much as we have enjoyed developing and delivering them, and you had the chance to ask questions, network with local colleagues and use the resources provided to start planning for the start of the course in September. Many important questions have been raised, and we hope you were able to find the answers you needed for your planning. Some key points to note are as follows:

- Brand new Blended Learning resources and Knowledge Organisers for Units 1 and 3 are now available via the new Geography GCSE website here: [Educational Resources - Home](#)
- The Blended Learning resources are editable so you can adapt them to fit your school, local area and areas of teaching expertise.
- Both the Blended Learning resources and Knowledge Organisers are available in English and Welsh.
- Don't forget to choose the correct topics from the year in which you wish to submit the Unit 2 fieldwork assignments. We have 2026 topics available, but as these must be submitted by January 2026 not long after the official start of the course, we expect that most, if not all of you will use the 2027 topics to submit in January 2027 for the first Year 11 group going through the specification. We understand of course that the summer of Year 10 and autumn of Year 11 are the best times to conduct fieldwork with your learners!
- Exemplar materials for Unit 4 are being produced, by experienced teachers across Wales and with their current students, to give you an idea of what the new decision-making NEA should look like. We aim to have these available in the Autumn at a range of marks and in different presentation styles, in plenty of time for the first centre led assessment of Unit 4 in 2027. Remember, Unit 4 is not available to be assessed in summer 2026 so the first Resource Folder for the 2027 series will be released in September 2026.
- The specification and Unit 1, 3 and 4 specimen assessment materials (SAMs) are available via the new Geography GCSE website if you haven't seen them yet ([GCSE Geography | Made for Wales](#)) along with the Unit 2 fieldwork SAM

being available via the Portal. Please speak to your Exams Officer if you don't have a current Portal login.

- Soon after your CPD day you should have been sent a document with a link to download all the resources from the CPD sessions, please do contact us if you've not had this link (it should be forwarded by your Head Teacher), and we will ensure that it is sent to you as soon as possible.

CURRENT FIELDWORK & UNIT 3 NEA UPDATE: FUTURE PLANNING

For those of you planning ahead now the current NEA is complete, for the 2026 series (assessed in Autumn 2025 and the final series for this specification), learners should focus on the Methodological Approach of Use of Transects and the Conceptual Framework of Inequality.

It's worth a further reminder here that learners should ideally undertake two fieldwork investigations in contrasting locations for the current specification 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 transect study on Llandudno beach in the morning and an inequality study in Llandudno town 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.

The guidance slides for these two themes have been updated and are now available in the Key Documents tab ([GCSE Geography](#)) of the current WJEC GCSE Geography website in English and Welsh. This is the final time that the NEA will be assessed before the new specification comes in next year so good luck with your planning and we hope these fieldwork projects are successful for you. We are still involved as a GCSE team with the GA National Plan for Geography fieldwork, a potentially very exciting new scheme where fieldwork ideas and opportunities will be shared between exam boards and initiatives like central fieldwork hubs and groups to share trips and ideas may be developed. We will keep you updated about this via the newsletters, websites and CPD events.

Finally, please remember to email your fieldwork statements to GCSEGeography@wjec.co.uk once the work is submitted. If you have not sent your current statement for 2025 in, then please do so at the earliest opportunity.

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 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. Hina is writing us a new document to cover the new specification as well. The document has notes, links and key information to cover the whole specifications and can be found here: [Home Page WJEC Educational Resources Website](#). Hina is going to produce a similar document for the new specification, which we will add to the new Geography GCSE website as soon as we have it.

GEOG SHOTS

Fiona Rennie, our GCSE Geography Subject Adviser, has been working on adding to our new Geog Shot resources, which are now available in the Key Documents section of the current Geography GCSE website ([GCSE Geography](#)). These are short power point resources designed to be a 10-minute solution focussed 'shot' of Geography to help guide your learners to more successful exam responses. They can be used in existing lessons, as revision resources or as intervention or stretch and challenge resources in the classroom. Current titles include Map Skills, Discuss/Assess/To What Extent and guides to the different AO's. Other topics are under consideration, please let us know if there is anything else you'd like us to cover with the Geog Shots as they develop. Fiona is looking to adapt and develop the Geog Shots for use with the new specification as well.

DIGITAL RESOURCES (CURRENT SPECIFICATION)

We always encourage you to visit the Digital Resources website ([Home Page WJEC Educational Resources Website](#)) to access a variety of resources that can be used to support learning and teaching of current spec GCSE Geography in the classroom or as part of a blended/flipped learning programme. Fiona 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. She 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 can be found in the Blended Learning & Resources Audit tab on the website in the Key Documents section. Our online 2024 exam feedback presentations for Units 1, 2 and 3 can be found on the website, with specific feedback on all papers and annotated exemplars for you to use in your revision and exam practice this summer. These example answers can be found in a separate document on the website as well, in the Exemplar Material section.

EXAMINING AND MODERATING FOR WJEC

There are opportunities to become an appointee and examine for WJEC & Eduqas in summer 2025 and beyond. 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.

In 2024 we had, for the first time in a long time, more examiners than we needed for the WJEC exams. We had some Welsh examiners marking Eduqas A Components 1 and 2 (as the content and question styles are the same; these papers also make excellent WJEC revision and practice resources) and will do so again in 2025. We will however have opportunities to examine and moderate for WJEC in the new specification in 2026 and beyond, so please apply and if you are offered Eduqas A examining then look on it as excellent CPD and preparation for when we review the teams and advertise for further examiners, in Welsh and English papers, for 2026.

All examiner training conferences in 2025 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>.

CARDIFF METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY & CANTERBURY CHRIST CHURCH UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

This is a message from Canterbury Christ Church University and Cardiff Metropolitan University for every secondary teacher in Wales to encourage you to share your experiences. We as a GCSE Geography team at WJEC think this is a very worthwhile piece of research, and we would love to see all teachers in Wales taking the time to complete the survey to help the researchers at both Universities.

'It's so important to understand the experience of teachers and we would love to hear your experience in a new piece of important research. Canterbury Christ Church University and Cardiff Metropolitan University are doing a large-scale survey for a research project, *Cultivating Deeper Interdisciplinary Dialogue*. We're particularly interested in any conversations you're having about what you teach, whether with other geography teachers or teachers of other subjects. Part of the survey is on teaching about sustainability and climate change, so it's important to us to get the experiences of geography teachers.

The survey should take less than 10 minutes. We would really, really love it if you could get some friends at school to do it too. Any secondary teacher can complete it'.

Links to Welsh and English versions of the survey are below:

Welsh https://cardiffmet.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_efKqY7HFixHJfp4

English https://cardiffmet.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7arOVuH51heB8Fg

CYNEFIN MAGAZINE

We have three back issues of Cynefin, our GCSE and A Level Geography journal, for you to download from the website ([Home Page WJEC Educational Resources Website](#)), and are currently looking at producing issue 4. As ever, if you have ideas for articles or would like to see work you have done potentially published then please do not hesitate to get in touch. All back issues can be found using the Resources for Teachers tab on the website.

All the best with your teaching in 2025 and with your planning for the new specification. Please get in touch if we can assist you in any way.

Rob, Amy and Fiona
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