

GCE Geography bulletin, September 2024

Croeso nô! I hope you had a relaxing summer break and that both you and your candidates were pleased with the exam results published last month. Thank you for your hard work preparing candidates yet again this year.

This is the first of three 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 the team.

SPECIFICATION UPDATE

Specification Update: First teaching from Sept. 2024 and first assessment from summer 2025.

Following a review of our current specification by our subject experts and senior examiners, we have published an updated version of our 2016 specification. The aim of this review was to align specification content with current geographical contexts and allow us to provide clarity on issues which have been the subject of teacher queries in the past. We have also been able to remove or replace any language or contexts which could be viewed as problematic or outdated.

Most updates are minor and do not necessarily require a change to the content taught at the centre. The structure of our examination papers will be unaffected.

The updated specification and all supporting documentation can be found on the GCE Geography homepage under '[Key Documents>Specification](#)'. Here, we have published two documents to further support this transition. The 'Teacher's Guide to 2024 update' provides further clarity on the reasoning behind the changes made and indicates clearly where changes to teaching approaches are necessary. The second is 'Changing Places - an update' which provides further guidance and information on how you may wish to approach the amended content. **All changes are listed inside the cover of the new specification document.**

Our digital resources and guidance will be updated following this summer's examination series to fully support these changes. Any queries concerning these changes should be directed to the Subject Team.

AUTUMN TERM PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Our new Assessment Feedback Package for 2024-25 is an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of how assessments are marked or moderated. This integrated suite of resources and training brings together free access to Principal Examiner reports, marked scripts, and online assessment feedback sessions. Learn more about how you and your learners can benefit from our Assessment Feedback Package here: [Assessment Feedback Package 2024-25 \(wjec.co.uk\)](#). You can download the most recent Principal Examiner Interim Report and register for FREE, online feedback events on your qualification page.

Our online CPD events this autumn will focus on feedback from the exam series and look at how it could inform classroom practice. Please join us if you can!

Online (English-medium)	Tuesday 22 October	16:00 - 17:30
Online (Welsh-medium)	Wednesday 23 October	16:00 - 17:30

EXAMINER REPORTS

In a change to our usual exam feedback timetable, you can currently download an Interim Principal Examiner Report from our subject page on the WJEC website. The full report will be available for download from September 30.

INDIVIDUAL INVESTIGATION (NEA) SUBMISSIONS 2024-25

We hope that you have had time to read and digest your individual NEA centre reports published on results day and that they are helpful to you as you plan for the next submission. Note that the date for submitting the sample of individual investigations in 2025 will be **Friday 28 March**. The Portal will be open for mark submissions from **10 March**.

EXAMINATION TIMETABLE 2025

Next year's examination timetable has now been finalised. The dates for the GCE Geography examinations are as follows:

Unit 1	Tuesday, 13 May (afternoon)
Unit 2	Tuesday, 20 May (morning)
Unit 3	*Thursday, 22 May (afternoon)
Unit 4	Friday, 6 June (morning)

Please note that the Unit 3 examination will take place **before** half-term in 2025.

WJEC DIGITAL RESOURCES

Issue 3 of 'Cynefin', our GCE and GCSE magazine, is out now. It contains a number of articles that will be of use to you and your students as you prepare for the coming year. It also contains the first set of exam reviews and articles to support exam preparation. The A level focus is on structuring Unit 4 essays effectively to maximise performance.

Please also remind yourself of the range of digital resources available to support you and your students. These include Blended Learning modules, Exam Walk Throughs and Knowledge Organisers. The full range of Knowledge Organisers to cover the 14 specialised concepts are available and can be printed for use in class or be used as a basis for individual learning by students. Our NEA toolkit resources will also be very helpful for students working independently on their individual investigations. In particular, the resources on developing an effective sampling strategy and writing an effective evaluation will assist. You can find all available resources [here](#).

BECOMING AN EXAMINER IN 2025.....

As an Examiner or Moderator, 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 2025 will be held online. Please register your interest by contacting us via GCEGeography@wjec.co.uk.

My very best wishes to all teachers and candidates for the coming academic year and please do get in touch if we can be of any assistance. Pob dymuniad da.

Erin

GCE Geography Subject Officer

GCEGeography@wjec.co.uk