

GCE Geography bulletin, September 2018

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Welcome back! I hope you had a good summer break and are returning refreshed to a set of pleasing results. This is the first of four bulletins that will be sent to subscribers during the academic year, detailing important dates and procedures as well as keeping you informed of latest developments in terms of resources and guidance. I hope you find them useful. As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Erin

2018 RESULTS

The first examinations for the reformed A level Geography (Unit 3 and 4) were sat this summer, and results published in August. The papers and mark schemes for all Units are now available to view on our [secure 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.

20th 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 27th 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 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 allow 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.

EXAMINERS' REPORTS

The Principal Examiner reports for each Unit are a vital tool to assist you as you develop teaching and learning for the new assessments. They provide detailed feedback on candidate performance in each examination and the NEA and are now available on the website subject page. You are advised to read them carefully.

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION FEEDBACK

In addition to the Principal Moderator's Report – a video presentation giving feedback on the NEA submissions is available on the website subject page. Click on [Unit 5 \(NEA\) feedback](#) towards the bottom of the page.

The presentation is in three sections – titles and proposal forms, administration and marking and annotation. Following the end of any reviews of moderation, further NEA exemplars (accompanied by detailed commentary) will be placed on the secure website.

As many of you will currently be preparing students for 2019 submissions, I would like to take this opportunity to remind centres of a few important points regarding the NEA:

- All titles and research questions should be rooted **within the specification content**, e.g. hydrological studies could look at temporal variations in discharge (3.1.3) or studies of flows or stores within a drainage basin (3.1.2). The links to the specification should be **clearly identified on the student proposal form** and this part of the form completed in detail. Secure and detailed links made here will assist students to select and make use of appropriate literature and secondary data relevant to their focus
- It is the teacher's responsibility to discuss titles with candidates to ensure that they are on a secure path. Please refer to the [exemplar proposal forms and guidance](#) provided on the open and secure websites. Detailed discussion is vital at the outset to ensure that each student has a title that is focused in terms of its location and secure in its geography. 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 should complete their proposal form **before** collecting any data. Group data collection (pairs or small groups) is allowed but decisions on which data to collect and the methodologies used must be made by the candidates themselves. Please remember that it is inappropriate for a large class to collect data as a single group and then select their NEA titles retrospectively
- Please remember that students should be discouraged from exceeding the 4,000 word JCQ guidance on word length. Investigations should be concise and focussed throughout, as suggested by the mark scheme.

2019 Independent Investigation samples will need to be submitted by **Friday, 29th of March**.

WJEC CPD DATES 2018

The CPD dates will focus on feedback from the 2018 examination series (A level). Course leaders will offer guidance on successfully addressing the AO2 and AO3 requirements within the A level examination papers. In addition, detailed guidance on the successful implementation and assessment of the Independent Investigations will be given. We hope to see you there.

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| Llanelli | 26 th November |
| Cardiff | 27 th November |
| Llandudno | 29 th November |

JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP

Our Facebook group continues to prove very popular and is a place for teachers to share resources, advice, and subject-related news to help fellow group members. A breakdown of some of the most useful and relevant links posted during the past academic year can be

viewed on the open website in the 'Facebook Group – Teacher Network' section under the 'Related Documents' tab on the homepage. [Join here](#)



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