

WJEC GCSE GEOGRAPHY BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2024

Welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful summer, got a good break from teaching and are back in your centres ready to go for the new academic year. 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.

TEACHING FOR 2024-25

Your Year 10 students going into the new academic year will be the last cohort to sit the current WJEC GCSE Geography exam. Next year, in September 2025, students will start the new made for Wales GCSE Geography specification. CPD information for the new course can be found later in this bulletin and you will be hearing much more about it as we move through the upcoming academic year.

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, as well as a range of optional paid face-to-face Professional Learning events. Learn more about how you and your learners can benefit from our Assessment Feedback Package here: [Assessment Feedback Package 2024-25 \(wjec.co.uk\)](https://www.wjec.co.uk/assessment-feedback-package-2024-25). You can download the most recent Principal Examiner Report and register for FREE, online feedback events on your qualification page.

Our GCSE Geography CPD events for 2024/25 will cover online exam feedback and the new GCSE specification.

Free online exam feedback sessions:

Wednesday 6th November (English Medium) & Thursday 7th November (Welsh Medium): 4pm to 6pm on Teams, covering 'Feedback on Summer Assessments'. The booking link is here: [GCSE Geography \(wjec.co.uk\)](https://www.wjec.co.uk/gcse-geography).

New Made for Wales GCSE Geography

We are excited to launch the new specification for GCSE Geography. Here are some key dates for your diaries including information on upcoming Professional Learning opportunities.

Key Dates:

Approved Specifications Published: 30th September 2024

Publication of Sample Assessment Materials: 19th December 2024

Guidance for Teaching Published: 31st January 2025

PL Events and Materials

PL Type	Aims	Format and Notes
<p>Your Guide to the new specification module</p> <p>Available from end of September 2024</p>	<p><i>To support your understanding of the specification document.</i></p>	<p><i>This asynchronous module will be on the "training on demand" tab of your qualification page on the WJEC website. You will need to register to access a link to view.</i></p>
<p>Parents / Options evening flyers</p> <p>Available from end of September 2024</p>	<p><i>To support you to provide information to parents and learners before start of study.</i></p>	<p>This PDF will be published on your qualification's home page.</p>
<p>Live Online Qualification Briefing and Q&A</p> <p>Available 2nd half autumn term 2024.</p> <p>Events are open for registration.</p> <p>Visit the <i>Training</i> tab on your new qualification's webpage to view dates and register.</p> <p>GCSE Geography Event (English Medium) is 1530pm on Monday 18th November.</p> <p>GCSE Geography Event (Welsh Medium) is 1530pm on Tuesday 19th November.</p>	<p><i>To support your understanding of the new qualification, its content and assessment structure. The live event will also refer to resources and upcoming PL and offer an opportunity to put questions to our Subject Teams and specification experts.</i></p>	<p><i>These live online events will be advertised on the WJEC website, and you will be required to register via a link. They will be hosted on Teams Live (Townhall).</i></p> <p><i>The events will be presented by WJEC Subject Advisors with Q&A support from WJEC Subject Officers. There will be English medium and Welsh medium events (except for English and Welsh qualifications).</i></p>
<p>* Preparing to Teach (face-to-face)</p> <p>Available from 14/02/25 to 07/04/25</p> <p>Registrations for the Pan Wales INSET days will be collected via your head teacher. No registrations through WJEC's website.</p>	<p><i>To support teaching the new specification. There will be a focus on understanding the assessments, assessment objectives, content and teaching approaches based on the specification, sample assessment materials and guidance for teaching.</i></p>	<p><i>These days take place on designated regional INSET days - there are 12 days in this series held across Wales, including 2 Welsh medium days and 1 bilingual day.</i></p> <p><i>These events will be led by WJEC Subject Advisors and our expert presenting teams.</i></p>
<p>Exam and NEA Walk-throughs</p> <p>Available summer Term 2025</p> <p>Access via the WJEC Portal secure website</p>	<p><i>To support you and your learners to understand the structure of question papers/NEA briefs, question types, assessment objectives and marking methods.</i></p>	<p><i>These pre-recorded PPT will initially be published on the WJEC Portal secure website only.</i></p>

FIELDWORK & UNIT 3 NEA UPDATE

It's worth another reminder here that learners should ideally undertake two fieldwork investigations in contrasting locations for the NEA. Many of you have enquired about this recently however and we can confirm that it is possible to do the two pieces of fieldwork in one day at the same location, for example a study on Aberystwyth beach in the morning and a different study in Aberystwyth 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 though, 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 or for revision. Please email in your fieldwork statement to us (address at the end of this bulletin) when you send in your completed NEA answers in January 2025, we would also like to remind you that we do request this statement via email and not as a hard copy. It has been great to speak to so many of you from centres across Wales about fieldwork during the last year and I am always available to offer advice and support on plans you may have.

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. Learners must complete their portfolios of work by 31st October 2024. These must be then stored securely and only made available to learners when they sit their assessment. The assessment must be taken over 2 hours and 30 minutes between 1st November and 31st December 2024. Guides for these topics, along with guides for the 2026 series for future planning can be found in the Fieldwork Guidance section of our GCSE Geography website ([GCSE Geography \(wjec.co.uk\)](https://www.wjec.co.uk)).

GA CONFERENCE 2025

An early reminder for your diaries – the 2025 Geographical Association Conference will be held from 10th to 12th April at Oxford Brookes University. 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.

EDI SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

I'd like to give you another reminder that we have a superb EDI overview document on the current GCSE Geog 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. The document has notes, links and key information to cover the whole specifications and can be found here: [WJEC Educational Resources Website](https://www.wjec.co.uk).

DIGITAL RESOURCES

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. Popular examples include Blended Learning modules, Knowledge Organisers, Accuracy, Reliability, and Validity in fieldwork and developing more effective fieldwork investigations.

EXAMINING FOR WJEC

There will be opportunities to become an appointee and examine for WJEC in summer 2025. 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 2025 will be held online via Teams. We welcome Welsh medium applications for all Units. Please register your interest now. Full details can be found on our Appointees page at <https://appointees.wjec.co.uk>. Please note that with the new Made for Wales specification being developed we will need examiners for it from across Wales, so please register your interest now if you would like to continue to mark into or to join a new team for the new course.

CYNEFIN MAGAZINE

Edition 3 of our GCSE and A Level Geography magazine Cynefin is now available via our website ([Resource WJEC Educational Resources Website](#)). We have a range of articles for you, from overviews of 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. Edition 4 is in the pipeline, please get in touch if you have any ideas on articles you would like to see or even better if you would like to contribute yourself. We look forward to hearing from you!

All the best with the teaching for the new academic year. Please get in touch if we can assist you in any way.

Rob, Amy and Fiona

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