

WJEC GCSE GEOGRAPHY BULLETIN

JANUARY 2026

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. We also hope the teaching of the new GCSE Geography course is going well for you all; we are always keen of course to hear feedback from you on what you think about it so far.

EXAMINATION DATES FOR SUMMER 2026

We can confirm the following dates for the Unit 1 and 2 exams in the summer of 2026:

- **QFF Unit 1 (Year 10):** Monday 11th May (pm)
- **Legacy Unit 1 (Year 11):** Tuesday 12th May (am)
- **QFF Unit 3 (Year 10):** Tuesday 19th May (pm)
- **Legacy Unit 2 (Year 11):** Wednesday 3rd June (pm)

- The QFF Unit 1 exam will retain its early May slot from 2027 onwards. The QFF Unit 3 exam will move to the Legacy Unit 2 early June slot from 2027 onwards. Don't worry if you see QFF Unit 3 being offered in 2026, we don't expect many centres to enter it this summer, and the paper will make an excellent mock for your Year 11 students once it is released to centres in the Autumn.
- Arrangements for QFF Unit 2 are covered in depth later in this newsletter.
- Also, please remember that QFF Unit 4 cannot be entered until summer 2027, with an annual deadline of 5th May, starting in 2027, to submit the marks via IAMIS and upload the sample of work from your centre. The first Unit 4 live resource pack will be released on the Portal in September 2026.

UNIT 3 NEA ADMINISTRATION

Firstly, don't forget that the **deadline** to send in the Unit 3 NEAs, that all centres should have completed before Christmas, is **Friday 16th 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.
- A seating plan from the assessment sessions.

Don't forget as well to ensure that all **extra sheets (up to 5 and no more)** 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. Using a treasury tag is the best way to do this, please do not staple or glue any extra sheets in. We also need your **centre fieldwork statements** to be **emailed** in as well. Please email them to GCSEGeography@wjec.co.uk rather than including a hard copy with the answer booklets. Please also remember to send your work in **candidate number order** when you post it to us.

NEW WJEC GEOGRAPHY GCSE SPECIFICATION & RESOURCES

You will now of course have started teaching the new QFF GCSE Geography specification. A lot of work went into getting it ready to go and we would like to extend our thanks to everyone who took part in all the many different stages of its development, from writing the spec and resources to planning and delivering the Spring 2025 Preparing to Teach CPD sessions. The Specification document is available on the website, as are the Specimen Assessment Materials (SAMs); alongside the four original SAM documents we now have Unit 2 and 4 NEA handbooks, all forms needed for this work as Word documents and the Unit 4 Sample Resource Pack. We also have four very detailed Guidance for Teaching (GFT) documents, written by the Unit writers, along with all resources discussed above to download: [GCSE Geography | Made for Wales](#).

Our excellent new Blended Learning and Knowledge Organiser documents are on the website now and cover Units 1, 2 and 3. The Blended Learning resources are editable and can be adapted to fit your expertise, case studies near your centre and resources you may have. These new resources can be accessed here and are well worth taking the time to read, download and use in the classroom: [Geography - Educational Resources - WJEC](#).

FIELDWORK & QFF SPEC UNIT 2 NEA UPDATE: FUTURE PLANNING

Hopefully everyone will now be aware of the requirements for the new QFF Unit 2 fieldwork submissions. We have some centres that have entered for this year, using a 2026 topic, either Geographical Flows or Settlement. For these centres, the deadline for submission via Surpass is 5th February 2026. For those of you planning to submit in Year 11, you must choose one of the 2027 topics, either Change over Time or Sustainability, enter by the end of November 2026 and submit the work by the deadline of 5th February 2027. We hope this has not caused confusion for any of you this year, and that you all have the correct topic and correct entry and submission dates clear. We now have a separate NEA Handbook for Unit 2, found within the Non-Exam Assessment tab on the website, this contains all the information you need to administer the NEA correctly. We should also make clear here that if you have entered Unit 2 for 2026 and any of your students wish to re-sit it in 2027 then they must complete a new investigation using a 2027 topic and cannot adjust or amend their 2026 investigation and submit it again.

GA CONFERENCE 2026

Another reminder for your diaries – the 2026 Geographical Association Conference will be held from Wednesday 8th to Friday 10th April at Sheffield City College. We will be there as always with a stand and subject representatives. It's always an excellent event and is invaluable CPD so it would be great to see a lot of Welsh Geographers there. The GA Wales Special Interest Group (SIG) will be represented at the conference and are always looking for new members. They meet online several times per year and work collaboratively to develop resources and support for Geographers in all schools across Wales ([Welsh Special Interest Group - Geographical Association](#)).

EXAM EXEMPLARS AND OTHER RESOURCES

We have recently revamped our Eduqas GCSE exemplars, with a range of annotated examples from key questions and at high to low marks across all 3 components of the A and B specifications. These can be accessed by downloading them from the Portal, under Resources – Subject-Specific Support Material inc CPD & Exemplars – Geography – Eduqas – GCSE – Exemplar Materials – 2025 – English. It is our intention to do the same for the QFF WJEC specification, starting with Unit 1 and Unit 2 and possibly Unit 3 (if we have enough entries) in 2026 and then all Units in 2027. These will be accessed the same way as the Eduqas examples outlined above, just with the amendment of searching for WJEC and then English or Welsh. We are aware of the need for good quality exemplars from all Units for the new specification and will hopefully build up a bank of these over the lifetime of the course. We have 9 exemplars for Unit 4 already, in English and Welsh, that have been marked and annotated and will be used in the upcoming Preparing to Assess online Unit 4 CPD in February. We would like to express our sincere thanks to the teachers from schools across Wales who trialled the Unit 4 last summer and sent us in these exemplars to use.

UPCOMING CPD EVENTS

We have two Preparing to Assess CPD events, aimed at QFF spec Unit 4, scheduled for February.

- Tuesday February 10th (English Medium)
- Thursday February 12th (Welsh Medium)

Both events will run from 3-45pm to 5-30pm and be presented by experienced WJEC teachers who have worked on the new spec since its inception, with the subject team on hand in the background to answer any questions on the days. We know many of you have signed up already, the links are here if you have not done so yet: [Events for 10/02/2026](#) & [Events for 12/02/2026](#).

EXAMINING FOR WJEC

There are opportunities to become an appointee and examine for WJEC & Eduqas in summer 2026. 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 2025 we continued to have more examiners from Wales 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 and these papers also make excellent legacy WJEC revision and practice resources) and may do so again in 2026. Our examining teams from legacy Units 1, 2 and 3 are coming over to the QFF spec, to mark Unit 3, Unit 2 and Unit 1 respectively. We may have some vacancies here but are definitely looking for a team of moderators for QFF Unit 4, for May 2027, as this is a completely new unit and will need a team to moderate the samples of work sent in by every centre. Please do let us know if you will be interested in this and would like to apply, for the English and Welsh medium teams.

All examiner training conferences in 2026 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

We have three back issues of Cynefin, our GCSE and A Level Geography journal, for you to download from the website, and are currently working on 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 2026. Please get in touch if we can assist you in any way.

Rob and Amy

CONTACTS

Rob Pengelly

GCSE Geography Subject Officer

Amy Allen

GCSE Geography Subject Support Officer

GCSEGeography@wjec.co.uk

029 2026 5114

