

WJEC GCSE GEOGRAPHY BULLETIN

APRIL 2024

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 2024

A reminder that the following dates are for the Unit 1 and 2 exams in the summer of 2024:

- **Unit 1:** Friday 17th May (pm)
- **Unit 2:** Wednesday 5th June (am)

FIELDWORK & UNIT 3 NEA UPDATE: FUTURE PLANNING

It's worth a further reminder here that learners should ideally undertake two fieldwork investigations in contrasting locations for the NEA. Many of you have enquired about this recently with your current Year 10 students in mind, 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 study on Llandudno beach in the morning and a different study in Llandudno CBD in the afternoon, if this is easier for you to organise in your centres. If you take this approach then please remember to be very careful to make it clear to students which study matches to which concept and questions in the final NEA paper! 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.

For those of you planning ahead now the current NEA is complete, 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. The guidance slides for these two themes have been updated and are now available on the website, as are the slides for 2026 (assessed in Autumn 2025, the final year of teaching for this course) on Use of Transects and Inequality.

I would also like to clear up a little bit of confusion over how to send in the fieldwork statements that accompany the NEA scripts when they are submitted during January. The statement can be found on the website, in the Key Documents tab. It seems that many were sent in as hard copies with the scripts this year when they need to come to us via email in the WJEC office. Please email the form to the GCSEGeography@wjec.co.uk address that you will find at the bottom of the statement. These statements are very important for us to have on file, so please make sure to email them in next year!

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 going to be 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 [Resource WJEC Educational Resources Website](#).

DIGITAL RESOURCES

We always encourage you to 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. Fiona Rennie (our GCSE Geography Subject Adviser) 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. Fiona 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 is now available on our website under the Resources for Teachers tab. Online Exam Review (OER) can be found on the website as well ([Home Page WJEC OER Website](#)), which has annotated example scripts from recent exam series (in English and Welsh) for you to use in your teaching and learning, plus for preparation and revision for the summer exams. We would like to extend a big thankyou to Bleddyn Williams of Ysgol Tryfan in Bangor for his hard work in preparing the 2023 Welsh medium OER for publication.

GEOG SHOTS

Fiona has been working on our new GeogShot resources which are now available in the Key Documents section of the website. 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.

EXAMINING FOR WJEC

There are still opportunities to become an appointee and examine for WJEC in summer 2024. 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 2024 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

The long delayed and much anticipated third edition of Cynefin, our GCSE and A Level subject magazine is in production and should be available around now. We have a range of articles for you, from overviews of 2023 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. We will publish it on the website when it is ready. Back issues can be found in the Resources for Teachers tab on the WJEC GCSE Geography website.

All the best with your teaching and to your learners for the rest of the 2023/2024 year and we hope you've started planning your summer holidays already! Please get in touch if we can assist you in any way.

Rob, Amy and Fiona

CONTACTS

Rob Pengelly

GCSE Geography Subject Officer

Amy Allen

GCSE Geography Subject Support Officer

Fiona Rennie

GCSE Geography Subject Adviser

GCSEGeography@wjec.co.uk

029 2026 5114