

GCE AS Examiners' Report

Geology
AS
Summer 2025

© WJEC CBAC Ltd.2025



Introduction

Our Principal Examiners' report provides valuable feedback on the recent assessment series. It has been written by our Principal Examiners and Principal Moderators after the completion of marking and moderation, and details how candidates have performed in each component.

This report opens with a summary of candidates' performance, including the assessment objectives/skills/topics/themes being tested, and highlights the characteristics of successful performance and where performance could be improved. It then looks in detail at each unit, pinpointing aspects that proved challenging to some candidates and suggesting some reasons as to why that might be.¹

The information found in this report provides valuable insight for practitioners to support their teaching and learning activity. We would also encourage practitioners to share this document – in its entirety or in part – with their learners to help with exam preparation, to understand how to avoid pitfalls and to add to their revision toolbox.

Further support

Document	Description	Link
Professional Learning / CPD	Eduqas offers an extensive programme of online and face-to-face Professional Learning events. Access interactive feedback, review example candidate responses, gain practical ideas for the classroom and put questions to our dedicated team by registering for one of our events here.	https://www.eduqas.co.uk/home/professional-learning/
Past papers	Access the bank of past papers for this qualification, including the most recent assessments. Please note that we do not make past papers available on the public website until 12 months after the examination.	Portal by WJEC or on the Eduqas subject page
Grade boundary information	Grade boundaries are the minimum number of marks needed to achieve each grade. For linear specifications, a single grade is awarded for the subject, rather than for each component that contributes towards the overall grade. Grade boundaries are published on results day.	For unitised specifications click here: Results and Grade Boundaries and PRS (eduqas.co.uk)

¹ Please note that where overall performance on a question/question part was considered good, with no particular areas to highlight, these questions have not been included in the report.

Exam Results Analysis	Eduqas provides information to examination centres via the WJEC Portal. This is restricted to centre staff only. Access is granted to centre staff by the Examinations Officer at the centre.	Portal by WJEC
Classroom Resources	Access our extensive range of FREE classroom resources, including blended learning materials, exam walk-throughs and knowledge organisers to support teaching and learning.	https://resources.eduqas.co.uk/
Bank of Professional Learning materials	Access our bank of Professional Learning materials from previous events from our secure website and additional pre-recorded materials available in the public domain.	Portal by WJEC or on the Eduqas subject page.
Become an examiner with WJEC.	We are always looking to recruit new examiners or moderators. These opportunities can provide you with valuable insight into the assessment process, enhance your skill set, increase your understanding of your subject and inform your teaching.	Become an Examiner Eduqas

Contents

	Page
Executive summary	5
Supporting you – useful contacts and links	6

Executive Summary

The mean marks of both components in AS Geology were significantly higher than in summer 2024, with more candidates receiving higher marks than in previous years. Candidates are clearly comfortable with the exam style and process, with very few questions left blank. The QER questions were as usual the questions most likely to be left blank but there were very few this year.

Overall, candidates tended to lose marks due to a lack of clarity and candidates need to ensure they use key terminology and standard scientific terms to ensure they can fully answer a question. There remains too much inference rather than fully answering questions.

Mathematical questions were answered well as in previous years, although units of measurement continue to be used sporadically by a significant minority.

Candidates often displayed significant attention to detail in answering questions requiring the drawing of specimens of breccia and coral in Component 1, and the drawing of a granite from a description in Component 2.

Candidates generally struggled to articulate answers related to Samarium - Neodymium radiometric dating, meteorites and the pros and cons of the use of gas emissions in predicting volcanic eruptions. In addition, many were surprisingly unable to determine the throw of a fault from spot height data in Component 1.

Many candidates did not maximise their marks because of a lack of attention to command words or the wording of other aspects of questions. 'Describing' when asked to 'explain' was common issue for many candidates throughout Component 2 in particular. In addition, in the mineral identification question in Component 1, many correctly identified the mineral but stated inappropriate non-diagnostic tests. Candidates were asked to evaluate the textural maturity of two sedimentary rocks in Component 1 which was done generally well, but many candidates started to also discuss compositional maturity and did not gain marks for this.

The QER questions were answered better than in previous years. The answers that were awarded marks in the top band were logically written, used correct geological terminology and fully addressed all aspects of the question posed. QER responses that were awarded few marks were either overly brief or did not focus on the evidence contained within stimulus material and instead provided generic responses based on knowledge only.

Areas for improvement	Classroom resources	Brief description of resource
Writing answers that respond to all the key information given in the stem of the question	Online exam review	Annotated samples of candidate responses which can be used to show good practice.
Writing answers that respond to all the key information in the stem of the question	GEOLOGY EXAM WALK THROUGH	Presentations taking candidates step-by-step through exam papers, highlighting the requirements of exam questions
Recall of more complex topic areas	KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS	A collection of knowledge organisers to support the learning of AS Geology.

Supporting you

Useful contacts and links

Our friendly subject team is on hand to support you between 8.30am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.

Tel: 029 2240 4253

Email: geology@eduqas.co.uk

Qualification webpage: [AS and A Level Geology | Eduqas](#)

See other useful contacts here: [Useful Contacts | Eduqas](#)

CPD Training / Professional Learning

Access our popular, free online CPD/PL courses to receive exam feedback and put questions to our subject team, and attend one of our face-to-face events, focused on enhancing teaching and learning, providing practical classroom ideas and developing understanding of marking and assessment.

Please find details for all our courses here: <https://www.eduqas.co.uk/home/professional-learning/>

Regional Rep Team

Our regional team covers all areas of England and can provide face-to-face and online advice at a time which is convenient to you.

Get in contact today and discover how our team can support you and your students.

[Regional Support Team | Eduqas](#)

Eduqas Qualifications

We are one of the largest providers of qualifications for schools, academies, sixth form and further education colleges across England, offering valued qualifications to suit a range of abilities. Each and every one of our qualifications is carefully designed to engage students and to equip them for the next stage of their lives.

We support our education communities by providing trusted qualifications and specialist support, to allow our students the opportunity to reach their full potential.



WJEC
245 Western Avenue
Cardiff CF5 2YX
Tel No 029 2026 5000
Fax 029 2057 5994
E-mail: exams@wjec.co.uk
website: www.wjec.co.uk