

## WJEC GCE GEOGRAPHY SPECIFICATION UPDATE JUNE 2024

These updates are for first teaching from **September 2024** and first assessment in **Summer 2025**.

### Core Content:

Level	Specification theme and focus	Nature of change	Justification	Change to current teaching?
AS	Changing Places 2.1.5 Bullet 1	Replace 'Retailing, commercial and entertainment expansion' with ' <b>Retailing, commercial and entertainment change</b> ' and 'rising affluence' with ' <b>income change</b> '.	Content update. Central urban areas are not necessarily experiencing rising affluence and expansion, particularly in the post-Covid era. Centres may wish to look at central urban areas experiencing decline as well as expansion.	Yes. Centres should include examples of decline as well as expansion.
AS	Changing Places 2.1.8 Bullet 1	Replace 'Broadband provision' to ' <b>digital connectivity</b> '.	Terminology update to emphasise the particular importance of digital connectivity for people and the economy in post-Covid societies.	No.
AS	Changing Places 2.1.10 New Bullet 3	Addition of ' <b>New challenges of managing change in some urban communities associated with the Covid-19 pandemic and economic changes</b> '.	Content update. This change reflects the post-Covid urban landscape and will allow centre to study the challenges some urban communities are experiencing e.g. impacts of loss of business and tax revenue and higher rates of vacancies.	Yes.
A	Water and Carbon Cycles 3.1.2 Bullet 4	Replace 'evaporation and transpiration' with ' <b>evapotranspiration</b> '.	Terminology update.	No.
A	Water and Carbon Cycles 3.1.4 Bullet 4	Replace 'river mismanagement' with ' <b>river basin mismanagement</b> '.	Terminology update to provide clarity. Examples of human mismanagement could relate to the wider river basin as well as the river itself.	No.
A	Global Governance Preamble	Line 3 of preamble updated to read 'Technological developments have accelerated <b>both globalisation and</b>	Providing clarity on the necessary underpinning knowledge and understanding of globalisation processes required.	No.

		<b>migration</b> over time, giving rise to a shrinking world’.		
A	Global Governance - Migration 3.2.1 Bullet 1	Addition of ‘globalisation’ at the beginning of this bullet to read ‘ <b>Globalisation and the</b> growth of global systems; connections and global flows of goods, money, people, technology and ideas’.	In the first draft of the specification, though ‘globalisation’ is in the title of the focus box, it was omitted from the content. Centres should ensure that students have full understanding of the globalisation process.	Yes.
A	Global Governance – Migration 3.2.2 Bullet 3	Replace ‘powerful superpowers’ to ‘ <b>superpower states</b> ’.	Terminology update. Superpower states are defined as those that possess military or economic might, or both, and general influence vastly superior to that of other states.	No
A	Global Governance – Oceans 3.2.8 Bullet 3	Replace ‘poor landlocked countries’ with ‘ <b>landlocked countries</b> ’.	Content update. This addresses the underlying assumption in the draft specification that all landlocked countries are poor.	No.
A	Tectonic Hazards 4.1.2 and 4.1.3	Replace ‘Use examples of at least two contrasting contexts to demonstrate...’ with ‘ <b>Use examples in contrasting contexts to demonstrate....</b> ’.	The inclusion of ‘at least two contrasting contexts’ has led to a reductive approach in some cases where study is limited to two events only. This approach can disadvantage candidates in terms of the breadth of their knowledge and understanding as required by the specification. Centres can continue to cover two events that provide appropriate coverage of the specification or may wish to adopt a wider approach where a broader range of events is covered in less detail to provide the most appropriate examples in each instance.	Possibly.

Optional Content:

Level	Specification theme and focus	Nature of change	Justification	Change to current teaching?
A	Economic Growth and Challenge: either India or China 4.3.1 Focus box title	Replace 'The physical background of India or China' with 'The <b>importance of</b> the physical background of India or China'.	Content update to provide clarity on the importance of a thorough understanding of the physical background of the selected country and the relative impact of the factors listed on economic growth.	Yes.
A	Economic Growth and Challenge: either India or China 4.3.2 Focus box title	Replace 'The demographic, social and cultural characteristics of India or China' with 'The <b>influence of</b> the demographic, social and cultural characteristics of India or China'.	Content update to provide clarity on the importance of applying an evaluative approach to the discussion of the factors listed in the specification and their relative impact on economic growth.	Yes.
A	Economic Growth and Challenge: Development in (Sub-Saharan) Africa	All reference to 'Sub-Saharan Africa' replaced with ' <b>Africa</b> '.	'Sub-Saharan Africa' is viewed by some as a contentious and westernised term (based on historical racial divides) that suggests a degree of uniformity amongst the nations to the south of the Sahara. The rationale to not include the entire continent in the first draft of the specification is no longer considered appropriate in this context. Extending the focus to include the entire African continent will allow centres to continue with their current approach or broaden their areas of study, as appropriate to the specification content.	Possibly.
A	Weather and Climate 4.5.4 Bullet 1	Replace 'Causes and consequences of recent and cyclic climate change including extreme weather events' to ' <b>Causes and consequences of short-term climate change from cyclic events such as ENSO</b>	Content update to provide clarity.	No.

		<b>and climate warming, including extreme weather events’.</b>		
A	Weather and Climate 4.5.4 Bullet 2	Change ‘Changing vulnerability of populations to weather and climatic hazards including exposure to climatic variability, sensitivity to stress and adaptive capacity’ to ‘Changing vulnerability of populations to weather and climatic hazards including exposure to climatic variability, <b>degree of resilience</b> and adaptive capacity’.	Content update to provide clarity.	No.
A	Weather and Climate 4.5.6 Focus box title	Change ‘Impacts of human activities on the atmosphere at local and regional scales’ to ‘Impact of human activities on the atmosphere of <b>urban areas</b> ’.	Terminology update to accurately mirror the current indicative content. Centre may continue to look at impacts at the local scale or at wider city scale.	No.