

GCE Geography bulletin, April 2018

Welcome back from the Easter break. I hope you find this newsletter useful as you plan for the upcoming examinations and the remainder of this academic year. As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch!

Erin

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION SUBMISSIONS

Thank you to all for your efforts to submit sample investigations to moderators by 23rd of March. Before the end of this term, via the secure website, each centre will receive detailed feedback on your internally assessed marks. General Principal Moderator feedback will be included in the final Examiner Reports published in August. We hope that this feedback will be constructive and helpful in order to plan the administration of the NEA for 2018-19.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of a few of the very important requirements of this task. These should be emphasised to your students before they embark on their data collection:

- All titles and research questions should be rooted **within the specification content**, e.g. hydrological studies could look at temporal variations in discharge (3.1.3) or studies of flows or stores within a drainage basin (3.1.2). The links to the specification should be **clearly identified on the student proposal form** and this form completed in detail. It is the teacher's responsibility to discuss titles with candidates to ensure that they are on a secure path. Please refer to the [exemplars and guidance](#) provided on the website. Where a centre is uncertain of the suitability of a particular title, please use the **Title Advice Service** that we offer.
- Students should be **strongly discouraged** from exceeding the 4,000 word JCQ guidance on word length. Investigations should be concise and focussed throughout, as suggested by the mark scheme. Centres will receive feedback on word length and should modify their approach, where necessary, in 2019.
- Each individual candidate should complete their proposal form independently **before collecting any data**. Group data collection (pairs or small groups) is allowed but decisions on which data to collect and the methodologies used must be made by the candidates themselves. Please remember that it is inappropriate for a large class to collect data as a single group.

PREPARING FOR THE EXAMINATIONS

As we move towards the examinations in May and June, there are certain points that are worth emphasising regarding administration or new resources that are available to support you.

1. Unit 1 and Unit 2 of GCE Geography will be e-assessed in Summer 2018 leading to the introduction of slightly different answer booklets for students. An electronic circular will be dispatched shortly to all Examinations Officers to explain the new procedures. I ask you kindly to read through this circular with your students when it arrives to ensure that they are fully aware of the layout of the new booklet and clearly note question and part-question

numbers on each continuation page that they use. This way, we can ensure that all parts of every student answer is assessed accurately.

2. Bear in mind that different command words relate to different Assessment Objectives (AO). 21st Century Challenges Question (Unit 3) and all extended response questions on Unit 4 assess **more than one** AO but are **weighted towards AO2** (application of knowledge and understanding). The above questions will carry one of four commands – 'Discuss', 'Evaluate', 'To what extent...' or 'Justify'. These commands provide the most significant stretch and challenge for candidates and require a written debate that **comes to a clear conclusion**. Refer to the 'Assessment Guidance for Teachers' PowerPoint in the 'Training Materials' section of the GCE Geography website for further guidance.

3. All five Student Guides are now available for purchase through the Hodder/Atebol websites. These provide amplification of the content in the specification as well as an exemplar Q and A section.

4. A selection of marked student responses to the SAMs questions for U3 and U4 are available for you on the website. These are the responses that we have received from centres in Wales for marking by the Principal Examiners. Search under 'Resources for Teachers' on the GCE Geography website. www.wjec.co.uk also contains marked student answers to U1 and Unit 2 papers from the Summer 2017 series.

5. A selection of revision questions and mark schemes for Unit 3 and Unit 4 are available on the website and can be found under 'Resources for Teachers' on the GCE Geography website. We very much hope that they assist your preparations.

KEY DATES FOR SUMMER 2018

Unit 1 Examination	15 th May PM	Unit 4 Examination	14 th June PM
Unit 2 Examination	24 th May AM		
Unit 3 Examination	8 th June PM	Results Day	16 th August

For Legacy examination dates and other key dates for this term, please visit the website.

JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP

Our Facebook group continues to prove popular and is a place for teachers to share resources, advice, and subject-related news to help fellow group members. It now has 500 active members, sharing ideas and resources. A breakdown of some of the most useful and relevant links that have appeared on the website since September can be viewed on the open website in the 'Facebook Group – Teacher Network' section under the 'Related Documents' tab on the homepage. [Join here](#).

NEXT BULLETIN

The next issue of this bulletin will be sent out at the beginning of the autumn term. This will contain full details of the CPD cycle for 2018-19. In the meantime, may I take this opportunity to wish all candidates every success during the forthcoming examination series and to wish all teachers a pleasant summer break when it finally arrives.

Erin Roberts

Subject Officer

029 2026 5158

erin.roberts@wjec.co.uk