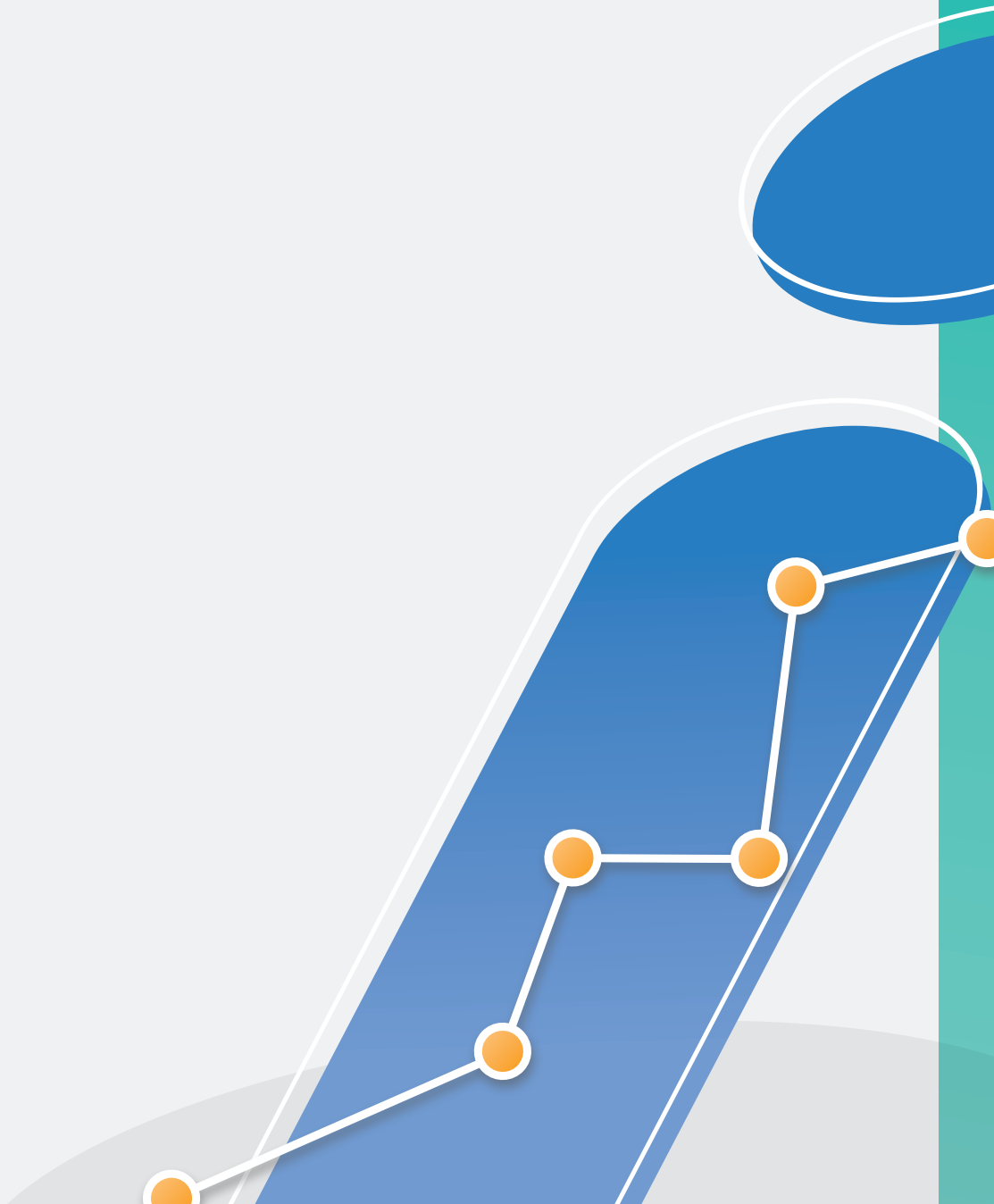AQA
Realising potential

GCSE
GEOGRAPHY

Insight report:
2019 results at a glance

September 2019

2019

aqa.org.uk

insights

How to use this report

This report provides a snapshot of this summer's results. It contains information on grade boundaries and performance by paper. This report is part of our full results insight series. For extra information on results:

- Access our free Enhanced Results Analysis tool. We've created two-minute tutorials to show you how.
- Navigate to e-AQA to download the full report on the exam for a detailed breakdown.
- Book on to one of our Live lessons webinars. The Head of Curriculum for your subject will take you through this year's results and answer your questions.
- Book on to a Feedback event. See examples from real scripts from the summer to highlight common areas where students did well and where there's room for improvement.

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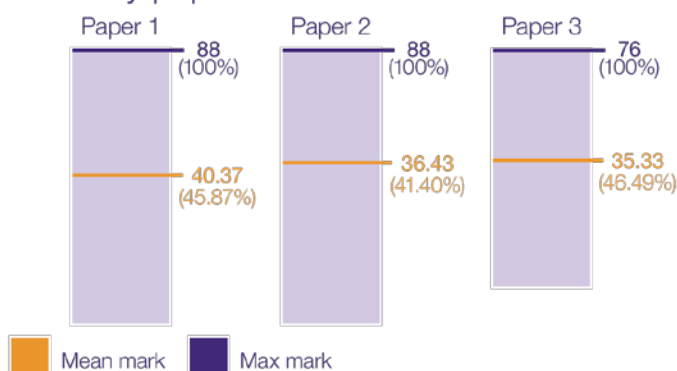
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Qualification summary

On Paper 1, student performance improved in their ability to engage with stimulus such as photographs, however it was evident that some lacked understanding of physical processes, particularly in Section C. Students are often able to sequence the formation of physical landscapes/features, but were often lacking in being able to express the role played by different physical processes. Students seemed to find the exam accessible, and issues concerned with timing appeared to be less of an issue.

On Paper 2, the best responses were seen where students clearly understood the assessment objectives and were prepared for different types of questions. However, an understanding of AO2 & AO3 questions could be improved, where students are required to apply their understanding to a stimulus. Where students were very familiar with case studies and examples, performance tended to be better.

In the Issue Evaluation in Section A of Paper 3, students had largely been effectively prepared for the exam and were clearly familiar with the pre-release materials. This often yielded the best responses from students. Application of skills and fieldwork experiences seemed varied, with the best responses coming from students who had experienced a manageable fieldwork enquiry and demonstrated the ability to apply this knowledge to the different strands of the enquiry process effectively.

Mean by paper

	Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
Max mark	88 (100%)	88 (100%)	76 (100%)
Mean mark	40.37 (45.87%)	36.43 (41.40%)	35.33 (46.49%)

Mean mark Max mark

AQA GCSE Geography

Mean mark by paper

The % is provided for context.

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Grade boundaries

Overall 2019 grade boundaries

Subject or paper	Max mark	Summer 2019 grade boundaries (raw mark)								
		9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Geography 8035	252	184	165	147	129	112	95	69	44	19

Grade summary
This shows the percentage of students achieving each grade.
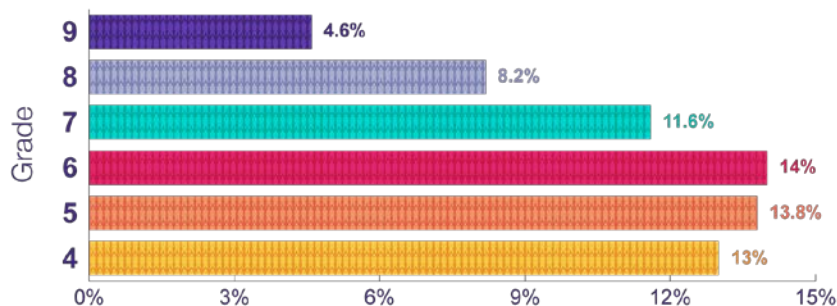
Total achieving (3-U = 34.8).

AQA GCSE Geography

Paper 1

Subject or paper	Max mark	Summer 2019 grade boundaries (raw mark)								
		9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Geography 8035/1	88	65	59	53	46	40	34	25	17	9

Paper 2

Subject or paper	Max mark	Summer 2019 grade boundaries (raw mark)								
		9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Geography 8035/2	88	63	56	49	42	36	30	21	13	5

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Paper 3

Subject or paper	Max mark	Summer 2019 grade boundaries (raw mark)								
		9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Geography 8035/3	76	56	50	45	40	35	31	22	13	5

How to interpret grade boundaries

GCSE Geography is a reformed qualification for 2019; the final grade is based on marks from all papers. You will be able to find the grade boundaries per component on the next few pages. There is no need to convert this mark to the uniform mark scale (UMS).

Grade boundaries are set using a mix of statistics and expert judgement

Our Research and Regulation team uses a range of statistics to make predictions that suggest the most appropriate grade boundaries. The statistical evidence considers the prior attainment of the given cohort as well as the distribution of marks. Senior examiners then review a script sample to confirm the statistically recommended marks are sensible for the grade.

Boundary setting is overseen by Ofqual.

Watch our two-minute team stories to find out more about how we set grade boundaries and ensure fairness. Visit aqa.org.uk/team-stories

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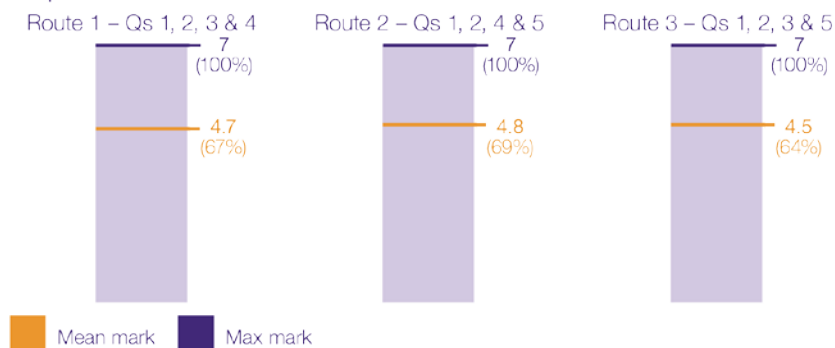
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Paper 1

This is a snapshot. Learn more about every question from the summer 2019 series in our reports on the exam. Visit aqa.org.uk/log-in and follow:

e-AQA > Secure Key Materials > GCSE > Geography/Leisure & Tourism > Geography (new specification) > Reports on the exam.

These data show the mean mark achieved by all students broken down by question type, and calculated for each optional route (based on the units chosen by students in Section C) where Question 3 is River Landscapes, Question 4 is Glacial Landscapes and Question 5 is Coastal Landscapes.
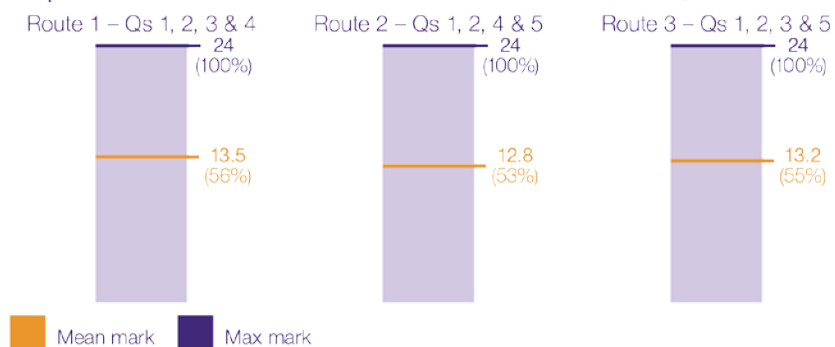

Paper 1 mean marks for MCQ

Route 1 – Qs 1, 2, 3 & 4	Route 2 – Qs 1, 2, 4 & 5	Route 3 – Qs 1, 2, 3 & 5
7 (100%)	7 (100%)	7 (100%)
4.7 (67%)	4.8 (69%)	4.5 (64%)

Mean mark   Max mark

AQA GCSE Geography

Mean marks for Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs), by route.

Paper 1 mean marks for short answer Qs (excluding MCQs)

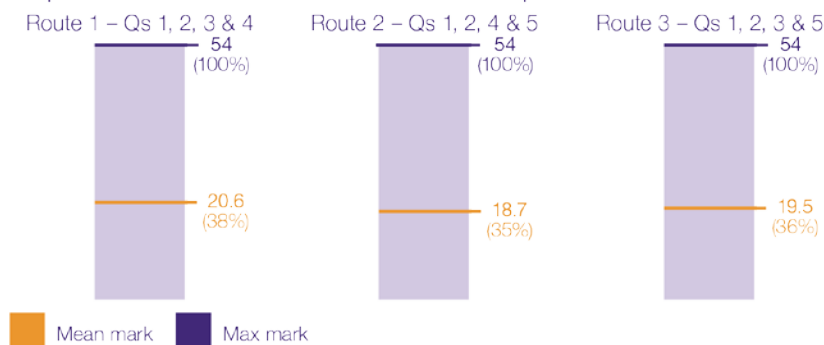| Route 1 – Qs 1, 2, 3 & 4	Route 2 – Qs 1, 2, 4 & 5	Route 3 – Qs 1, 2, 3 & 5
24 (100%)	24 (100%)	24 (100%)
13.5 (56%)	12.8 (53%)	13.2 (55%)

Mean mark   Max mark

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Mean marks for short-answer questions, by route.

Questions that are point marked (typically 1-3 marks)

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Paper 1 mean marks for levels of response Qs (excluding SPaG marks)

Route 1 – Qs 1, 2, 3 & 4	Route 2 – Qs 1, 2, 4 & 5	Route 3 – Qs 1, 2, 3 & 5
54 (100%)	54 (100%)	54 (100%)
20.6 (38%)	18.7 (35%)	19.5 (36%)

Mean mark   Max mark

AQA GCSE Geography

Mean marks for levels of response questions, by route.

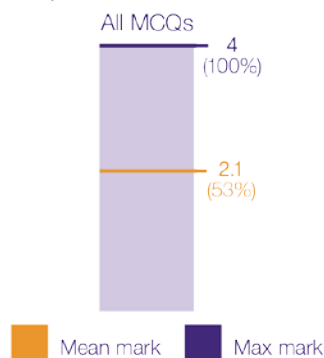*Questions that are levels marked (typically 4, 6 & 9 marks)*

Areas where students did best	Areas where students could improve
• Students demonstrated good engagement with evaluative commands, particularly 9-mark questions. • Student performance on questions requiring use of photographs. • Mathematical calculations were largely accurately carried out.	• Understanding of physical processes was lacking – particularly in section C. • Questions that require students to bring their own understanding to a stimulus – students often didn't extend their responses away from the resource.

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Paper 2

These data show the mean mark achieved by all students broken down by question type, and calculated for each optional route (based on the units chosen by students in Section C) where Question 4 is Food, Question 5 is Water and Question 6 is Energy.
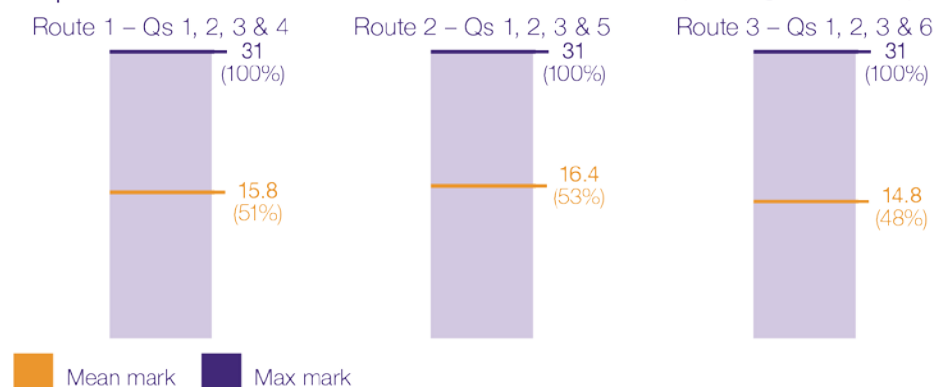
Paper 2 mean marks for MCQ

All MCQs
4 (100%)
2.1 (53%)

Mean mark   Max mark

AQA GCSE Geography

Mean marks for Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs), by route.

Paper 2 mean marks for short answer Qs (excluding MCQs marks)

Route 1 – Qs 1, 2, 3 & 4
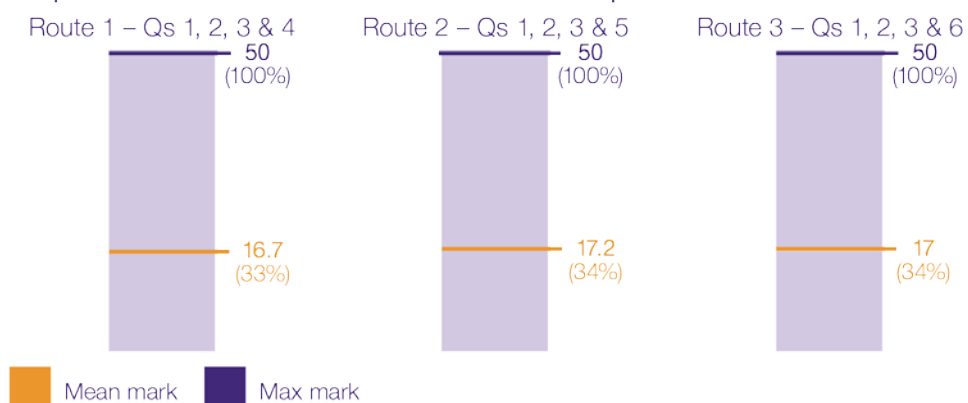31 (100%)
15.8 (51%)

Route 2 – Qs 1, 2, 3 & 5
31 (100%)
16.4 (53%)

Route 3 – Qs 1, 2, 3 & 6
31 (100%)
14.8 (48%)

Mean mark   Max mark

AQA GCSE Geography

Mean marks for short answer questions, by route.

Questions that are point marked (typically 1-3 marks)

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Paper 2 mean marks for levels of response Qs

Route 1 – Qs 1, 2, 3 & 4
- 50 (100%)
- 16.7 (33%)

Route 2 – Qs 1, 2, 3 & 5
- 50 (100%)
- 17.2 (34%)

Route 3 – Qs 1, 2, 3 & 6
- 50 (100%)
- 17 (34%)

■ Mean mark ■ Max mark

AQA GCSE Geography

Mean marks for levels of response questions, by route.

Questions that are levels marked (typically 4, 6 & 9 marks)

Areas where students did best	Areas where students could improve
• Students clearly engaged well with case studies and examples that were local/familiar to them. • Structure of responses to longer tariff questions shows improvement.	• Understanding what is expected in questions testing AO2 and AO3. • Engagement with text-based stimulus. • Using examples or case study knowledge that supports the students response (eg fairtrade).

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Paper 3

These data show the mean mark achieved by all students broken down by question type. As there are no optional questions, one single route is taken by all students.
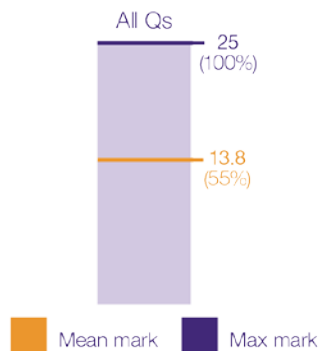
Paper 3 mean marks for MCQ
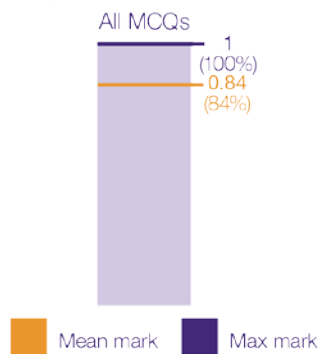
All MCQs
1 (100%)
0.84 (84%)

Mean mark   Max mark

AQA GCSE Geography

Mean marks for Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs), by route.

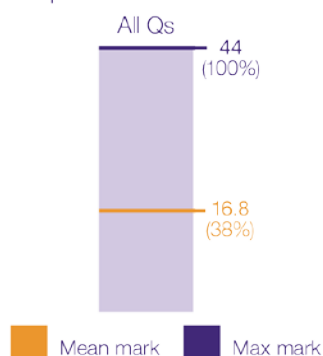### Paper 3 mean marks for short answer Qs (excluding MCQs marks)

All Qs
25 (100%)
13.8 (55%)

Mean mark   Max mark

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Mean marks for short answer questions.

Questions that are point marked (typically 1-3 marks)

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Paper 3 mean marks for levels of response Qs

All Qs

44
(100%)

16.8
(38%)

Mean mark   Max mark

AQA GCSE Geography

Mean marks for levels of response questions.

Questions that are levels marked (typically 4, 6 & 9 marks)

Areas where students did best	Areas where students could improve
• Engagement with the resources in the pre-release materials. • Making judgements in the issue evaluation questions, and responding to evaluative commands.	• Ensuring that students are completing fieldwork in line with the requirements. • Accurately identifying titles of their own fieldwork investigations still requires improvement.

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- Enhanced Results Analysis
- Reports on the exam
- Live lessons webinars
- Feeback events
- Visit Exampro for past papers, related mark schemes and examiner comments.

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