




Geography

**HELPING YOUR STUDENTS
THINK THE WORLD OF
GEOGRAPHY**



WORLD AROUND YOU AND YOUR GEOGRAPHY STUDENTS.

We offer a diverse choice of qualifications designed to enrich and encourage the love of geography. Using fresh perspectives, our courses are created to capture the imagination and interest of you and your students. You can select from a wide variety of formats and media to adapt to your students' interests and strengths, offering you the flexibility and variety you need as a teacher.

With OCR, you'll see your students not only have a spark for geography, but also gain a qualification that is both recognised and respected.

ENTRY LEVEL GEOGRAPHY

AN ACCESSIBLE CHOICE

Entry Level qualifications are designed to be accessible and relevant and they provide students with recognition for their achievements. They're targeted at different types of students, including adult returners, students on taster courses, those with learning difficulties and students who are considered unlikely to reach grade G at GCSE.

DESIGNED TO OFFER MORE FLEXIBILITY

The qualification has been designed to offer flexibility, as students can complete the two tasks at any point during the course and submit all the work together at the end. It features four modern, key themes that provide clear and relevant learning outcomes. There is the option of submitting work electronically via the OCR Repository, which allows students to present their work in a variety of formats, eg journals, oral decision-making exercises and videos.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Entry Level qualifications can also be the doorway to further qualifications for students, as once they have gained them, students can further enrich their skills by more study.

COURSE DETAILS

We understand that students following this qualification may come from a diverse range of learning environments. With this in mind, the varied nature of the project task allows students to display their knowledge, skills and understanding in a wide variety of formats.

COURSE SUMMARY FOR ENTRY LEVEL GEOGRAPHY

Task 1: Key Theme Project

- Theme 1: People, Rivers and Coasts
- Theme 2: People and Places
- Theme 3: Natural Hazards and People
- Theme 4: People, Products and Services

Students must complete one Key Theme Project, based on one of the key themes above.

Task 2: End of Course Test

All four key themes will be assessed.

GCSE GEOGRAPHY A

Our Geography A specification addresses the current needs of the subject, while also capturing the imagination of you and your students, by studying contemporary themes and issues that reflect the real world.

BENEFITS OF OUR GCSE GEOGRAPHY A SPECIFICATION

- It offers students the opportunity to look at geography from a new and exciting perspective.
- It emphasises a range of issues facing today's society, eg sustainability, globalisation and uneven development.
- It helps students to understand the relevance of geographical studies to their lives and to the real world.
- It engages students with modern content and the opportunity to use creative methods to present their work, eg cartoons, reflective journals, poems and videos.
- It comes with comprehensive support materials to help teachers to prepare their students fully.
- It encourages students to understand facts and figures about their environment as well as developing a caring attitude towards looking after it.

COURSE SUMMARY FOR GCSE GEOGRAPHY A

Unit A731: Contemporary Themes in Geography

Students study three compulsory themes:

1. Extreme Environments

Students study two contrasting environments – hot desert environment and mountain environment – along with studying a recent earthquake event.

2. The Global Citizen

Students explore the impacts of consumerism through the study of one product and service, along with studying a recent energy issue.

3. Similarities and Differences in Settlements and Population

Students study a local place in the UK and a non-UK place: to explore similarities, differences and links between the places and the people who live and work there. Students also study a recent population change issue.

Unit A732: Geographical Skills

Students learn and practise a range of geographical skills throughout the course, through the study of the three contemporary themes and the local geographical investigation.

Unit A733: Local Geographical Investigation

Students complete one piece of work, which must involve the collection of primary data through fieldwork.

One controlled assessment task title must be chosen from a choice of four each year.

Students are encouraged to present their work in a variety of formats, including posters, presentations and videos.



GCSE GEOGRAPHY A

OVERVIEW OF THE ASSESSMENT

GCSE Geography A: J382 (for first teaching in 2012 and first assessment in 2014)

Unit	Assessment	Marks	Duration	Weighting
Unit A731: <i>Contemporary Themes in Geography</i> Theme 1 – Extreme Environments Theme 2 – The Global Citizen Theme 3 – Similarities and Differences in Settlements and Population	Examined	100 + 12 SPaG	1 hour 45 minutes	50%
Unit A732: <i>Geographical Skills</i>	Examined	50	1 hour 15 minutes	25%
Unit A733: <i>Local Geographical Investigation</i>	Controlled assessment 1 task (2,000 words)	50	Recommended 16 hours, not including 1 day collecting data in the field	25%
Total		212	3 hours	100%

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

Candidates are expected to demonstrate the following in the context of the content described:

- **AO1** Recall, select and communicate their knowledge and understanding of places, environments and concepts.
- **AO2** Apply their knowledge and understanding in familiar and unfamiliar contexts.
- **AO3** Select and use a variety of skills, techniques and technologies to investigate, analyse and evaluate questions and issues.

GCSE GEOGRAPHY B

Our Geography B specification contains traditional aspects of geography with modern-day issues to reflect the ever-changing world of geography.

BENEFITS OF OUR GCSE GEOGRAPHY B SPECIFICATION

- It offers a balance of theoretical and practical work, encouraging an active involvement in the subject.
- It's an ideal foundation for students who want to pursue Geography at A Level or as a career.
- It gives an understanding of global geographical issues and how to apply this to a range of contexts.
- There is a full support package to save you preparation time.

COURSE SUMMARY FOR GCSE GEOGRAPHY B

Unit B561: Sustainable Decision Making

Decision-making exercise – opportunity for students to proceed through three stages of investigating issues in sustainable development.

One of four key themes will be assessed in this unit.

Students will develop real-life skills relevant to future decision making.

Unit B562: Geographical Enquiry

A fieldwork investigation of a hypothesis/question linked to Rivers, Coasts, Population and Settlement, or Economic Development.

Unit B563: Key Geographical Themes

Three of the four key themes will be assessed in this unit.

Students will be able to demonstrate their ability to apply their knowledge and understanding in familiar and unfamiliar contexts.



GCSE GEOGRAPHY B

OVERVIEW OF THE ASSESSMENT

Unit title and description	Assessment and duration	Weighting
Unit B561: Sustainable Decision Making	Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes 40 marks	25%
Learners answer all questions		
Unit B562: Geographical Enquiry	Controlled assessment 60 marks	25%
Fieldwork focus uses the collection of primary data and the production of a report. Candidates complete a 2,000 -word assessment under controlled conditions covering:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting the scene • Method(s) of data collection • Data presentation and analysis • Evaluation and conclusion 		
Unit B563: Key Geographical Themes	Written paper 1 hour 45 minutes 99 marks (9 SPaG marks)	50%
This question paper has three sections. Learners are required to answer all questions.		

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

The assessments are designed to reflect the non-statutory guidelines for Geography B. Candidates are expected to demonstrate the following:

- **AO1** Recall, select and communicate their knowledge and understanding of places, environments and concepts.
- **AO2** Apply their knowledge and understanding in familiar and unfamiliar contexts.
- **AO3** Select and use a variety of skills, techniques and technologies to investigate, analyse and evaluate questions and issues.

CSE GEOGRAPHY SHORT COURSE

Our GCSE Geography Short Course is based on the full course GCSE Geography B and is the equivalent of half a GCSE.

BENEFITS OF A SHORT COURSE

- There are only two units to complete.
- Students who are interested in geography, but don't have time to study a full course, have more learning options.
- Students can study a wider range of subjects.
- Timetabling for shorter courses can be easier for your centre.
- More-able students can complement their studies by taking the Geography Short Course as an additional subject.
- The Geography Short Course offers more flexibility – students can study it over one or two years.

COURSE SUMMARY FOR GCSE GEOGRAPHY SHORT COURSE

Unit A771: Geographical Enquiry

A fieldwork investigation of a hypothesis/question linked to Rivers, Coasts, Population and Settlement, or Economic Development.

Unit A772: Key Geographical Themes

Two key themes will be assessed – Rivers and Coasts, and Economic Development.

CSE GEOGRAPHY SHORT COURSE

OVERVIEW OF THE ASSESSMENT

Unit title and description	Assessment and duration	Weighting
Unit A771: Geographical Enquiry Fieldwork focus uses the collection of primary data and the production of a report. Candidates complete a 2,000 -word assessment under controlled conditions covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting the scene • Method(s) of data collection • Data presentation and analysis • Evaluation and conclusion 	Controlled assessment 60 marks	50%
Unit A772: Key Geographical Themes	Written paper 1 hour 15 minutes 66 marks (6 SPaG marks) This question paper has two sections. Learners are required to answer all questions. Externally assessed	50%

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

The assessments are designed to reflect the non-statutory guidelines for Geography Short Course. Candidates are expected to demonstrate the following:

- **AO1** Recall, select and communicate their knowledge and understanding of places, environments and concepts.
- **AO2** Apply their knowledge and understanding in familiar and unfamiliar contexts.
- **AO3** Select and use a variety of skills, techniques and technologies to investigate, analyse and evaluate questions and issues.

CAMBRIDGE IGCSE® GEOGRAPHY

IGCSEs and GCSEs are equivalent qualifications, but Cambridge IGCSEs are designed to be taught holistically. Exams are at the end of the course, providing teachers with more freedom. Material can be taught without interruption and at a pace that suits students, giving more time for teaching and learning.

Schools tell us that Cambridge IGCSE prepares students extremely well for A Levels and Cambridge Pre-U. Students get to grips with the subject, developing a solid foundation of knowledge and skills, as well as developing as independent students.

Cambridge IGCSE Geography is funded for state schools and counts towards the English Baccalaureate and school performance tables.

BENEFITS OF CHOOSING CAMBRIDGE IGCSE® GEOGRAPHY

- Exams are at the end of the course, giving more time for teaching and learning, without interruption.
- Students cover a wider range of topics. This builds greater understanding of the impact that physical and human geography can have and the processes that affect their development.
- A focus on topical UK and international issues stimulates students' imagination. Students are free to draw on examples that are relevant to them.
- Students develop lifelong skills, including the ability to use and understand geographical data and information.
- There is no controlled assessment – schools have flexible assessment options: 100% examination route which includes an alternative to coursework, or exam and coursework.

www.cie.org.uk/igcseuk

COURSE SUMMARY

Theme 1: Population and Settlement

Students will develop an understanding of population growth and decline, and associated problems. They will also explore factors influencing the development of urban and rural settlements and their impact on the environment.

Theme 2: The Natural Environment

Students will develop an awareness of the characteristics of the physical environment, including: plate tectonics; landforms and landscape processes; weather, climate and natural vegetation; inter-relationships between the natural environment and human activities.

Theme 3: Economic Development and the Use of Resources

Students will develop the ability to describe and explain factors influencing economic development, including: agricultural systems; industrial systems; leisure activities and tourism; energy and water resources.

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A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY

Our A Level Geography specification explores the key principles, concepts and processes that explain geographical phenomena and landscapes. It maintains the balance between physical and human geography while ensuring relevance to the modern world.

BENEFITS OF OUR A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY SPECIFICATION

- It builds on aspects of the range of OCR's (and other boards') GCSE specifications.
- It reduces repetition of topics covered at GCSE and Key Stage 4 and provides continuity and progression in geographical understanding.
- It provides an excellent foundation for those students wishing to go on to study Geography at degree level.
- Topics are explored in depth using individual research and investigation techniques.
- It ensures that topics have relevance to the modern world and to young people's lives.
- It maintains the requirement to carry out fieldwork, but removes the need for lengthy formal reports.

COURSE SUMMARY FOR AS LEVEL

Unit F761: Managing Physical Environments

Students will develop understanding of the physical processes and factors that produce features, the impact of these processes on human activity and how human action has affected the physical processes.

Environments covered are: river, coastal, cold, and hot arid/semi-arid.

Unit F762: Managing Change in Human Environments

Students will develop an understanding of the processes that produce a variety of human environments, the principal changes and how humans are trying to manage the changes.

Topics covered are: managing urban change, managing rural change, energy and tourism.

OVERVIEW OF THE ASSESSMENT FOR AS LEVEL

Unit title and description	Assessment and duration
<p>AS Unit F761: Managing Physical Environments</p> <p>This paper has two sections.</p> <p>Section A: Candidates are required to answer two questions chosen from four structured data-response questions which are each divided into four parts. To do this, candidates choose one question from either Coastal environments or River environments and one question from either Cold environments or Hot arid/semi-arid environments. Questions are based upon stimulus material, which may include maps (OS and other types), written material, photographs, satellite and other images, diagrams and statistical information.</p> <p>Section B: Candidates are required to answer one question chosen from four extended-writing questions. There will be one question set for each of the four environments. The question answered must be on a different topic from the two topics chosen in Section A.</p> <p>Candidates answer three questions.</p>	<p>50% of the total AS GCE marks</p> <p>Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes 75 marks</p>
<p>AS Unit F762: Managing Change in Human Environments</p> <p>This paper has two sections.</p> <p>Section A: Candidates are required to answer two questions chosen from four structured data-response questions which are each divided into four parts. To do this, candidates choose one question from either Managing urban change or Managing rural change and one question from either The energy issue or The growth of tourism. Questions are based upon stimulus material, which may include maps (OS and other types), written material, photographs, satellite and other images, diagrams and statistical information.</p> <p>Section B: Candidates are required to answer one question chosen from four extended-writing questions. There will be one question set for each of the four human geography topics. The question answered must be on a different topic from the two topics chosen in Section A.</p> <p>Candidates answer three questions.</p>	<p>50% of the total AS GCE marks</p> <p>Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes 75 marks</p>

A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY

COURSE SUMMARY FOR A2 LEVEL

Unit F763: Global Issues

Students will develop the ability to identify and quantify issues of global concern, an understanding of the processes responsible for these issues, how humans are responding and the different consequences.

Options include: earth hazards, population and resources, and globalisation.

Unit F764: Geographical Skills

Students will develop an understanding of the process of geographical investigation, including fieldwork, skills needed to complete investigation, an awareness of problems and an ability to evaluate outcomes.

OVERVIEW OF THE ASSESSMENT FOR A2 LEVEL

Unit title and description	Assessment and duration
<p>A2 Unit F763: Global Issues</p> <p>This paper has two sections.</p> <p>Section A: Candidates are required to answer three questions, at least one from three questions on Environmental issues and at least one from three questions on Economic issues. All questions present a set of data and candidates are expected to identify any issues they show and suggest appropriate strategies to manage them.</p> <p>Section B: Candidates are required to answer two essay-type questions, one from six questions on Environmental issues and one from six questions on Economic issues.</p> <p>Candidates answer five questions.</p> <p>This unit is synoptic.</p>	<p>30% of the total Advanced GCE marks</p> <p>Written paper</p> <p>2 hours 30 minutes</p> <p>90 marks</p>



A2 Unit F764: Geographical Skills

This paper has two sections.

Section A: Candidates are required to answer one question chosen from three structured data-response questions which are each divided into three parts. These questions are based upon stimulus material, which may include maps (OS and other types), written material, photographs, satellite and other images, diagrams and statistical information; and upon the skills and techniques used during the geographical research that candidates will have undertaken at both AS and A2.

Section B: Candidates are required to answer two extended-writing questions. Questions focus on the skills and the techniques used during the geographical research, including analysis, interpretation, evaluation and drawing conclusions. Candidates answer three questions in total.

This unit is synoptic.

20% of the total Advanced GCE marks

Written paper, partly based on candidates' own investigation/research.

1 hour 30 minutes

60 marks

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

There are three Assessment Objectives: AO1, AO2 and AO3. Candidates are expected to demonstrate the following (in the context of the content described):

- **AO1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding** of the content, concepts and processes.
- **AO2 Analyse, interpret and evaluate** geographical information, issues and viewpoints and apply understanding in unfamiliar contexts.
- **AO3 Investigate, conclude and communicate:** select and use a variety of methods, skills and techniques (including the use of new technologies) to investigate questions and issues, reach conclusions and communicate findings.



SUPPORT INFORMATION

GENERAL SUPPORT FOR GCSE AND A LEVEL

- Past papers and their mark schemes
- Reports to centres on each exam session
- Sample assessment materials
- Sample schemes of work and lesson plans
- Teacher's Handbook
- Guide to controlled assessment for GCSE

Answers@OCR is a new service available where you can access specific and up-to-date information about our GCSE Geography qualifications by visiting <http://answers.ocr.org.uk>.

OCR Interchange is a secure website for centres which offers a variety of services for Exams Officers and teachers, including the ability to carry out day-to-day administrative online functions quickly and efficiently.

Active Results for GCSE and A Level is a free online results analysis service to help you review the performance of individual students or your whole school. Active Results provides access to detailed results data, enabling more comprehensive analysis of results in order to give you a more accurate measure of the achievements of your centre and individual students.

For more information, go to ocr.org.uk/activeresults.

Geography community – the Geography social network is a free platform where teachers can engage with each other – and with OCR – to share ideas and best practice, offer guidance and access a range of support materials produced by other teachers. To sign up, go to <http://social.ocr.org.uk>.

PUBLISHER SUPPORT

GCSE GEOGRAPHY A

We have worked together with Heinemann to provide you with a comprehensive and accessible support package:

- GCSE Specification A Student Book
- OCR GCSE Geography A Evaluation Pack.

GCSE GEOGRAPHY B (FULL OR SHORT COURSE)

We have worked together with Heinemann to provide you with a comprehensive and accessible support package, including student books, teacher guides and CD-ROMs:

- OCR GCSE Geography B Student Book with ActiveBook CD-ROM
- OCR GCSE Geography B ActiveTeach CD-ROM
- OCR GCSE Geography B Teacher Guide with CD-ROM
- OCR GCSE Geography B Revision Toolkit Student Workbook
- OCR GCSE Geography B Revision Toolkit Teacher for Virtual Learning Environment
- OCR GCSE Geography B Controlled Assessment Student Workbook.

A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY

We have worked together with Heinemann to provide you with a comprehensive and accessible support package, including student books, teacher guides and CD-ROMs:

- Revise AS Geography OCR Student Book
- Revise A2 Geography OCR Student Book
- AS Geography for OCR LiveText Teacher Book with Planning and Delivery Resource
- AS Geography for OCR Student Book with LiveText
- A2 Geography for OCR LiveText Teacher Book with Planning and Delivery Resource
- A2 Geography for OCR Student Book with LiveText.

FREE eBooks for A Level Qualifications – We've joined up with Oxford University Press and Hodder Education to provide FREE AS and A2 textbooks online. Available now for ALL schools and colleges teaching A Levels.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Take advantage of our improved Professional Development Programme, designed specifically with you in mind.

We are constantly looking for ways in which we can improve the support we offer to teachers, so we've made our Professional Development Programme more accessible to all by making it as easy as 1, 2, 3 (and 4):

1. Introduction to and understanding of your specification through our online videos.
2. Review of the external assessment presentations to guide you through the lessons learnt from the last exam series.
3. Interaction opportunities through our live webinars and face-to-face training.
4. Advancement of your knowledge and re-invigoration of your passion at our Premier CPD events.

To find out more about our Professional Development Programme, visit our website at

www.ocr.org.uk/professionaldevelopment

You can contact our Professional Development team by emailing professionaldevelopment@ocr.org.uk or by calling **02476 496398**.

INTRODUCING OCR

We're a leading UK awarding body, providing an exciting range of qualifications to meet the needs of students of all ages and abilities.

We want to help you make the most of your passion for Geography and believe in developing qualifications that help you bring it to life, engaging students to achieve more success. To help us continue to improve our qualifications and support services, we continually work in partnership with and listen to you to ensure you and your students get as much as possible from our qualifications.

We can ensure you'll receive full support when you're teaching our qualifications. You can enjoy free online training events, and choose from a useful selection of teaching materials and resources – all written for you by expert developers to make working with us easier and more rewarding.

OUR AIM IS TO ASSIST YOU HOWEVER WE CAN

As well as providing you with a wide range of support services and resources to pick and choose from, we're also here to help you with specialist advice, guidance and support for those times when you simply need a more individual service.

Here's how to contact us for specialist advice:

By phone: **01223 553998**

By email: **general.qualifications@ocr.org.uk**

Online: **www.ocr.org.uk/geography**

By post: **Customer Contact Centre,
OCR, Progress House,
Westwood Business Park,
Coventry CV4 8JQ**

ocr.org.uk/geography

Contact us

Keep up to date on the latest news by registering to receive e-alerts at www.ocr.org.uk/update

Telephone 01223 553998

Facsimile 01223 552627

Email generalqualifications@ocr.org.uk

