



ELC

Geography

Entry Level Certificate R406

OCR Report to Centres June 2017

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This report on the examination provides information on the performance of candidates which it is hoped will be useful to teachers in their preparation of candidates for future examinations. It is intended to be constructive and informative and to promote better understanding of the specification content, of the operation of the scheme of assessment and of the application of assessment criteria.

Reports should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and mark schemes for the examination.

OCR will not enter into any discussion or correspondence in connection with this report.

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General Comments:

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Encouragingly the good work of centres entering candidates for R406 continues. The marked step up in the level of preparation of work and resources and work from candidates has continued throughout the life of the specification. This year no incomplete work was seen. Another positive was the absence of any key theme projects reverting to a regurgitation of Geography texts. These are very encouraging developments that will allow centres to move seamlessly into the new specification, either next summer (2018) or the following year (2019) after R406 has finished.

As previously noted the internal investigation continues to see a variety of themes being addressed. Most centres developed one piece of work, in some cases using the work planned for GCSE studies and adapting the delivery and assessment of the resulting study. A few centres developed a series of mini investigations which also worked very successfully. Where GCSE work has been 'recycled' for ELC, the centres are now well aware of their responsibility to ensure that the ELC mark sheet is applied to the work and that annotation is utilised to demonstrate to the moderator where the various criteria have been met in the candidate's work.

Again there was a wide variety of work developed and used. Confidence in planning a specific course to tailor to the local needs of the community the school serves and the specific interests and/or needs of the students following the course continues to develop. Many centres introduced an aspect of primary data collection, which will fit positively into the new specification's Field work note book task. A few centres though chose to base their work on secondary research, particularly when studying hazards. The range of themes included; changes/growth in urban areas, physical geography investigations of coasts or rivers, natural hazards (mostly through secondary research) and 'my place'. There was no dominant theme in this range of studies though urban data collection was more common than the use of rural areas for field work.

It is refreshing to see students at ELC level developing extended studies, obviously having spent a considerable amount of time researching and presenting their information. Many centres now make excellent use of ICT facilities to develop this work. Personal teaching experience suggests that students at this level are often motivated by the ability to produce professional looking work through ICT and will then take a greater sense of ownership of their studies. The work seen again this June certainly bears out this idea.

Centres are starting to make good use of ICT to develop their studies with PowerPoint presentations. It is possible for this work to be saved to disc or USB memory drive and sent in such a format to the moderators.

The internally administered examination once again proved very successful with little evidence of misinterpretation of the extended answer tasks within the papers.

Administration throughout was felt to be very good by the moderation team. Thank you to all centres entering students for this assessment, this certainly helps the process to run smoother and quicker.

As the penultimate year of this specification centres are recommended to view OCR's website where documents and materials for the new specification (R407), are available. Centres are pointed in the direction of this specification if considering a long term future for Entry Level Geography.

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The new specification neatly follows on from the developments of most Entry Level centres and in many cases the current work could be developed to dovetail into the new specification with its Fieldwork Notebook; Personal Project and End of Course examination. All assessments are internally marked and externally moderated. Further information can be obtained from the Geography Subject Officers at OCR.

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