

AS

At AS, all candidates will study core human and physical geography. In each area of study candidates will consider their own values and attitudes to the issues being studied and support their learning of ideas through the study of specific case studies. Candidates will also develop a variety of geographical skills, which will broaden and deepen existing knowledge and be employed with a greater degree of independence.

A2

At A2, candidates will continue to study a combination of human and physical geography. Candidates are required to choose whether to undertake preparatory investigative work in the field in order to be able to produce a fieldwork investigation, or undertake an issue evaluation exercise to extend the content within the specialised context of issue evaluation.

Unit 1: Physical and Human Geography

Externally assessed

Written Paper, 2 hours

70% of total AS marks, 35% of total A Level marks

Structured short and extended questions

Available January and June

Subject Content

Physical Geography

Core – Rivers, floods and management

Options – at least one from:

- cold environments
- coastal environments
- hot desert environments and their margins

Human Geography

Core – Population change

Options – at least one from:

- food supply issues
- energy issues
- health issues

Unit 2: Geographical Skills

Externally assessed

Written Paper, 1 hour

30% of total AS marks, 15% of total A Level marks

Structured skills and generic research/fieldwork questions

Available January and June

Subject Content

- Basic, investigative, ICT, graphical, cartographical and statistical skills
- Research skills and fieldwork

Unit 3: Contemporary Geographical Issues

Externally assessed

Written Paper, 2 hours

30% of total A Level marks

Structured short and extended questions and an essay

Available January and June

Subject Content

Choose three options

Physical options (choose at least one of these):

- Plate tectonics and associated hazards
- Weather and climate and associated hazards
- Challenges facing ecosystems

Human options (choose at least one of these):

- World cities
- Development and globalisation
- Contemporary conflicts and challenges

Unit 4A: Geography Fieldwork Investigation

Written paper, 1 hour 30 minutes

20% of total A Level marks

Structured short and extended questions based on candidates' own fieldwork investigation

Available January and June

OR

Unit 4B: Geographical Issue Evaluation

Written paper, 1 hour 30 minutes

20% of total A Level marks

Structured short and extended questions based on an advance information leaflet issued by AQA

Available January and June

Assessment Objectives

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

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