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WJEC GCSE in GEOGRAPHY A
For Teaching from 2012
For Award from 2014

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SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT GEOGRAPHY A

SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT

Unit 1: Core Geography (40%) Written Paper: 1 hour 45 minutes (F/H) 90 marks (80 UMS)
<p>Six short compulsory structured data response questions, one question from each of the core themes. These questions will each have an element of extended prose.</p>
Unit 2: Options Geography (35%) Written Paper: 1 hour 15 minutes (F/H) *72 marks (70 UMS)
<p>Three in depth structured data response questions with extended writing – one physical, one human and one other selected from the three physical and three human optional themes.</p>
Unit 3: Geographical Enquiry: (25%) Controlled Assessment 100 marks (50 UMS)
<p>An enquiry based on fieldwork (10%) and a problem solving decision-making exercise (15%)</p>

*This total includes additional marks for spelling, punctuation and the accurate use of grammar.

AVAILABILITY OF ASSESSMENT AND CERTIFICATION

	Entry Code		From June 2014
	Subject	Option*	
Unit 1	4231	01 or W1 (F)	✓
	4231	02 or W2 (H)	✓
Unit 2	4232	01 or W1 (F)	✓
	4232	02 or W2 (H)	✓
Unit 3	4233	01 or W1	✓
Subject Award	4230	LA or UL	✓

* Option Codes

English Medium 01, Welsh Medium W1 - for units
English Medium LA, Welsh Medium UL - for subject award

Qualification Accreditation Number: 600/5143/7

This is a linear specification: all assessments must be taken at the end of the course.

GEOGRAPHY A

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Rationale

This specification builds upon the approaches and strategies of the current GCSE Geography A (final assessment 2013). It complies with all relevant regulatory documents.

The specification builds upon the key concepts and skills prescribed in the key stage 3 programme of study for candidates in Wales, England and Northern Ireland. The **objective** of the qualification is to prepare candidates to progress to GCE Geography or, indeed, to other GCEs with a humanities or social science focus such as GCE World Development or to GCEs with an earth science focus such as GCE Environmental Science.

Within the framework of the statutory general and subject specific criteria, and the requirements for progression and wider curriculum opportunities (Section 7), the **distinctive rationale** for this specification is the study of geography through a balanced thematic framework of physical and human themes. Within each theme, candidates are encouraged to take an enquiry approach to a range of contemporary geographical and environmental issues at a variety of scales and in a variety of specified places and contexts. The subject content of the subject criteria for geography is met in breadth in Unit 1. The subject content of the subject criteria for geography is examined in greater depth in the optional themes presented within Unit 2. This thematic approach allows some flexibility for teachers to select specific content and learning experiences and develop a curriculum that can enable candidates to achieve the specified learning outcomes. Questions for the optional themes within Unit 2 are designed with equally weighted assessment objectives in order to create comparable levels of demand for candidates taking different routes through this paper.

The optional themes within Unit 2 provide an opportunity for candidates in Wales to apply their geographical understanding to complex issues of concern affecting their own lives here in Wales, both currently and in the future. As a whole, the specification provides a challenge for candidates to consider their role as active citizens and their part in creating positive geographical futures in England or Wales or, indeed, globally.

By the age of 14+ learners in England will have already explored a variety of issues in a geographical context and, in doing so, will have acquired a variety of geographical skills and competences. Learners will have developed their understanding of key geographical concepts including:

- place;
- space;
- scale;
- interdependence;
- physical and human processes;
- environmental interaction and sustainable development;
- physical and human processes;
- cultural understanding and diversity.

During the key stage 3 programme of study, learners in Wales will have been given opportunities to:

- locate places, environments and patterns;
- understand places, environments and processes;
- develop their geographical skills, knowledge and understanding through learning about places, environments and issues at a range of scales in selected locations within Wales, the European Union and the wider world;
- conduct geographical investigations;
- develop opinions, assess bias and communicate findings.

The specification builds upon the key stage 3 programme of study for learners in England **and** Wales by ensuring that learning outcomes:

- reinforce these key concepts at increasing levels of depth and complexity;
- provide opportunities for the study of a rich variety of places at a range of scales and for developing a framework of spatial awareness from the local scale through to the global scale;
- ensure that candidates appreciate the relevance of the subject, to their own world and to the fast changing world around them;
- develop a personal interest in why geography matters;
- develop their responsibilities as global citizens and recognise how they can play an important part in sustainable development;
- include a wide range of opportunities to learn about the world around them through fieldwork;
- allow for increasing independence in the learning process through the further development of geographical skills, new technologies and the enquiry process;
- give candidates in Wales an opportunity to develop their learning as part of the Intermediate Welsh Baccalaureate qualification.

1.2 Aims and Learning Outcomes

Aims

Following a course in GCSE Geography A should encourage candidates to be inspired, moved and changed by following a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study and gain an insight into related sectors. They should prepare learners to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices.

Learning Outcomes

The specification should enable candidates to:

- actively engage in the process of geography to develop as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds;
- develop their knowledge and understanding of geographical concepts and appreciate the relevance of these concepts to our changing world;
- develop a framework of spatial awareness in which to appreciate the importance of the location of places and environments from local to global;

- appreciate the differences and similarities between people's views of the world, its environments, societies and cultures;
- understand the significance of values and attitudes to the development and resolution of issues;
- develop their responsibilities as global citizens and recognise how they can contribute to a future that is sustainable and inclusive;
- develop and apply their learning to the real world through fieldwork and other out of classroom learning;
- use geographical skills, appropriate technologies, enquiry and analysis.

1.3 Prior Learning and Progression

Although there is no specific requirement for prior learning, this specification builds upon the revised National Curriculum Programmes of Study for Geography at Foundation and Key Stages 2 and 3. It builds on the skills framework for geographical enquiry, places and themes in the Welsh NC Geography and the conceptual framework in the English NC.

Candidates who have followed a course in GCSE Geography may progress to AS and A Geography, other A level subjects and advanced vocational courses.

Any candidate, irrespective of gender, ethnic, religious or cultural background, may follow this specification. This specification is not age specific and, as such, provides opportunities for candidates to extend their life-long learning.

1.4 Equality and Fair Assessment

GCSEs often require assessment of a broad range of competences. This is because they are general qualifications and, as such, prepare candidates for a wide range of occupations and higher level courses.

The revised GCSE qualification and subject criteria have been reviewed to identify whether any of the competences required by the subject presented a potential barrier to any disabled candidates. This review of criteria did not reveal any potential barriers to disabled candidates, and this specification has not added any potential barriers. If this were the case, the situation would be reviewed again to ensure that such competences were included only where essential to the subject. The findings of this process were discussed with disability groups and with disabled people.

Requirements for fieldwork are sufficiently flexible for all candidates to participate. However, candidates with visual impairments may have difficulty in demonstrating skills related to interpretation of geographical information including for example maps, satellite imagery, 3-D and colour maps.

Reasonable adjustments are made for disabled candidates in order to enable them to access the assessments. For this reason, very few candidates will have a complete barrier to any part of the assessment. Information on reasonable adjustments is found in the Joint Council for Qualifications document *Regulations and Guidance: Access Arrangements, Reasonable Adjustments and Special Consideration*. This document is available on the JCQ website (www.jcq.org.uk).

Candidates who are still unable to access a significant part of the assessment, even after exploring all possibilities through reasonable adjustments, may still be able to receive an award. They would be given a grade on the parts of the assessment they have taken and there would be an indication on their certificate that not all of the competences have been addressed. This will be kept under review and may be amended in future.

1.5 Classification Codes

Every specification is assigned a national classification code indicating the subject area to which it belongs. The classification code for this specification is 3910.

Centres should be aware that candidates who enter for more than one GCSE qualification with the same classification code will have only one grade (the highest) counted for the purpose of the School and College Performance Tables.

Centres may wish to advise candidates that, if they take two specifications with the same classification code, schools and colleges are very likely to take the view that they have achieved only one of the two GCSEs. The same view may be taken if candidates take two GCSE specifications that have different classification codes but have significant overlap of content. Candidates who have any doubts about their subject combinations should check with the institution to which they wish to progress before embarking on their programmes.

2

SPECIFICATION CONTENT

The externally assessed content of the specification is divided into two units; each has a balanced content of physical and human themes. The core unit is divided into three physical and three human themes with an underpinning knowledge of key processes and patterns that form the basis of an understanding of environmental interactions and an appreciation of the importance of sustainability in those interactions. The option units offer a choice of three physical and three human themes, each extending the knowledge and understanding of key concepts. Candidates choose **one** physical option, **one** human option and **one** other.

The **themes** chosen for study involve candidates working at different scales in different environments and in different parts of the world including the United Kingdom and Wales, Europe, sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

A variety of **places** are required to be studied at a range of scales in different parts of the world and in different types of environment.

The contribution of physical and human **processes** to the development of geographical **patterns**, the geographical characteristics of particular places and environments, and their interdependence is illustrated in both units.

Throughout the specification there is a focus on the interrelationship between people and the environment. Considerations of **sustainable development** affecting the planning and management of environments and resources pervade the whole specification. The issue of sustainability at different scales and in different contexts is explicit throughout.

The specification picks up the geographical aspects of a number of **contemporary** social, economic, political and environmental **issues**. The specification ensures the illustrations for study remain contemporary by allowing choice of case study illustration.

The specification presents candidates with the opportunity to explore alternative geographical futures in a wide range of contexts. In a rapidly changing world, the specification examines current trends and alternative viewpoints so that candidates are in an informed position to speculate about alternate futures. In this way, candidates should consider their own role in society and their part in creating positive geographical futures.

The correct and appropriate use of **geographical vocabulary** is rewarded in both external and internal assessment.

Skills and techniques incorporated in the specification

In developing an understanding of the ideas outlined in the specification, the candidate will be engaged in activities which involve the application of skills, especially enquiry skills.

The specification requires the assessment of the candidate's ability to:

- identify, analyse and evaluate relevant geographical questions and issues;
- establish appropriate sequences of investigation incorporating geographical skills, including enquiry skills;
- extract and interpret information from a range of different sources, including field observations, maps (including Ordnance Survey maps of different scales), graphs, drawings, photographs (ground, aerial and satellite imagery), diagrams and tables;
- describe, analyse and interpret evidence, make decisions, draw and justify conclusions and communicate findings in ways appropriate to the task audience;
- evaluate methods of collecting, presenting and analysing evidence, and the validity and limitations of evidence and conclusions.

In undertaking geographical work, the candidate calls upon a range of these skills. In detail, there are intellectual skills such as the understanding and interpretation of data, the analysis of statements and reports, the ability to develop judgements and formulate conclusions. There is the skill of communication whether it is by written text, diagram, oral discussion or some form of visual media. There are also skills of a social nature which can be encouraged and facilitated by group activities.

Maps are an essential resource for the geographer, and candidates are expected to be able to use maps drawn from a number of sources, including those:

- (a) at a variety of scales, from world maps that appear in atlases and overseas maps, to detailed local plans;
- (b) from the Ordnance Survey, the Meteorological Office, the media and travel companies;
- (c) for a range of purposes, including land use, weather forecasting, route finding and publicity;
- (d) using a range of different techniques, including topographic maps, choropleth, isopleth and symbol maps.

It is particularly important that candidates are given the opportunity during the course to use maps in practical contexts, especially those which they will come across in their daily lives.

Candidates will be expected to use and interpret a variety of maps and to be able to draw sketch maps.

In addition, the specification emphasises and provides opportunities for the acquisition and use, in a variety of contexts, of cross-curricular skills and key skills such as communication, the application of number and information and communication technology. See Section 7 The Wider Curriculum on page 47.

Geography is an ideal subject in which candidates are able to demonstrate the use of ICT in a relevant and useful way, and it is desirable that the following ICT skills are integrated into the teaching and learning of the specification, where appropriate:

- (i) use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS): e.g. analysis of flood hazards posed in river or coastal environments using the interactive maps on the Environment Agency website;
- (ii) communicating information e.g. word processing and using a computer to draw bar graphs;
- (iii) information processing e.g. the use of a computer database or spreadsheet to analyse fieldwork results;
- (iv) simulation e.g. the use of a computer programme to simulate a situation such as the effect of population growth, or the movement of people into a city;
- (v) remote sensing e.g. the use of an electronic probe to measure temperature; using a live weather satellite image.

It should be noted that these skills are not necessarily discrete, and a combination could be used within the context of one activity.

The expectation that enquiry skills pervade the learning programme is reflected by the nature of the external assessment where enquiry skills are incorporated into the data response questions. The controlled assessment involves a decision-making and/or problem solving task and a fieldwork task. The table below identifies the skills required for enquiry and may be a useful reference tool in ensuring candidates are engaged in a range of activities in their work.

Enquiry skills	Related techniques
<p>1. Identification of geographical questions and issues</p> <p>Establishing appropriate sequences of investigation</p>	<p>mind map</p> <p>flow diagram of appropriate sequence of investigation</p> <p>sampling</p>
<p>2. Identification and collection of evidence from</p> <p>primary sources</p> <p>secondary sources</p> <p>ICT based sources</p> <p>Recording data</p> <p>Presenting data</p>	<p>collection of data through fieldwork</p> <p>maps (sketch, choropleth, isopleth, O.S. - at scales 1:50,000, 1:25,000) and other weather, media, route and publicity maps;</p> <p>photographs (vertical and oblique) and satellite images</p> <p>statistical data</p> <p>other data sources e.g. newspaper</p> <p>data derived from ICT</p> <p>GIS</p> <p>choose and use appropriate recording techniques</p> <p>transformation of data into: maps (sketch, choropleth, isopleth) graphs (line, histogram, pie, scatter, x-sections)</p>
<p>3. Description</p> <p>Analysis [using statistics]</p> <p>Interpretation of evidence</p>	<p>written description of patterns seen on data itemised above using geographical terms e.g. north, cluster</p> <p>analysis of data using average and range</p> <p>explanation of patterns seen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on maps to include weather maps, graphs, photographs (vertical air, oblique, ground level) satellite image • in text, diagrams, numerical data
<p>4. Making decisions</p> <p>Drawing and justifying conclusions</p> <p>Evaluating the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • methods of collecting, presenting and analysing evidence, • validity and limitations of evidence and conclusions. 	<p><i>Role play exercises/games.[teaching suggestion only]</i></p> <p>Problem solving/decision making exercises</p> <p>Application of geographical knowledge and understanding</p>
<p>5. Communicating findings in ways appropriate to the task and audience</p>	

The descriptions of the themes in the specification are divided into three columns.

ONLY THE FIRST TWO COLUMNS FORM THE EXAMINATION SPECIFICATION

Key Question	Enquiry Questions	Exemplification
<p>The question that provides the focus of the enquiry.</p> <p>Teachers can be confident that the examination papers will be based upon these Key Questions and their associated Enquiry Questions</p>	<p>These break down the Key Questions into an organisational framework and present an enquiry route that details the coverage required in developing the Key Questions.</p>	<p><i>These give either a possible teaching approach or, by e.g., cite examples of places or topics that would fulfil the specification requirements for this Key Idea. This column is NOT mandatory since the teaching approach is the prerogative of the teacher.</i></p>

The specification gives the teacher the opportunity to select appropriate examples of places or topics that support the enquiry questions in a range of spatial contexts and at a variety of scales.

It is essential that the areas to be studied should be carefully chosen so that examples are not considered in isolation, but are placed in a context of wider spatial awareness.

By the end of the course, candidates will have been given the opportunity to synthesise the ideas and examples studied to provide a synoptic view of the geographical world in which they live.

One of the ways this can be achieved is through the controlled assessment. Centres are encouraged to select two linked tasks from the same theme to develop greater synoptic understanding through the application of specific questions to the wider field of geography.

Unit 1 - The Core

Study all 6 themes

A. The Physical World

1. Water
 - River processes and landforms
 - Managing rivers
2. Climate Change
 - Causes and effects
 - Reducing its impact
3. Living in an Active Zone
 - Hazards at plate margins
 - Reducing the risk

B. A Global World

4. Changing Populations
 - World population distribution
 - Future changes in distribution and structure
5. Interdependence
 - Trends in globalisation
 - Impacts of globalisation
6. Development
 - Measuring patterns of development
 - Achieving the Millennium Development Goals

Unit 2 - Options

Choose 3 themes - one physical, one human and one other

A. Physical Options

<p>7. Our Changing Coast line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Coastal processes and landforms➤ Managing coasts➤ Future coastlines
<p>8. Weather and Climate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Climate patterns in the UK➤ Weather hazards➤ Reducing the risks
<p>9. Living Things</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The living planet➤ Management➤ Alternative futures

B. Human Options

<p>10. Tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The changing nature of tourism➤ The impact of tourism➤ Sustainable growth of tourism
<p>11. Retail and Urban Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The changing city centre➤ Changing patterns of retailing➤ Alternative futures
<p>12. Economic Change and Wales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Current patterns of work and employment➤ Future employment➤ Future for energy in Wales

**UNIT 1 – The Core
A – The Physical World**

Key questions	Enquiry questions	Exemplification
Theme 1 Water		
1. What are river processes and what landforms do they create?	1.1 What processes are associated with rivers?	1.1 <i>Explanation of river processes associated with erosion, transport and deposition.</i>
	1.2 What landforms result from these processes? Coverage must include meanders.	1.2 <i>Field work and sketching, photographic interpretation, OS mapwork. Description and explanation of the relative importance of erosion and deposition in the formation of waterfalls and gorges; meanders and oxbow lakes; floodplains and levees.</i>
	1.3 How do these landforms and processes affect the lives of people living along rivers?	1.3 <i>Case studies of development of tourism at major waterfalls and a major flood event.</i>
2. How should rivers be managed?	2.1 How successful are different management approaches to the problem of flooding?	2.1 <i>Comparison of hard and soft engineering. Investigate the physical and social impacts of a major river management scheme.</i>
	2.2 Should we change our approach to river and floodplain management in the future?	2.2 <i>Decision making exercise on flood management of Thames Gateway development taking into account possible consequences of climate change.</i>

Key questions	Enquiry questions	Exemplification
<p>Theme 2 Climate Change</p> <p>1. What are the causes of and evidence for climate change?</p> <p>2. What are the alternative futures?</p>	<p>1.1 What is the greenhouse effect and how have people's actions affected this process?</p> <p>1.2 How conclusive is the range of evidence for climate change?</p> <p>2.1 What are the possible effects of climate change? Coverage must include countries at different levels of development.</p> <p>2.2 How can technology be used and people's lifestyles changed to reduce the impact of climate change?</p>	<p>1.1 <i>The roles of industry, transport, farming and deforestation in creating greenhouse gases.</i></p> <p>1.2 <i>Consider the validity of a range of evidence including: ice core evidence; CO2 emissions; freak weather events; melting ice; changes to ecosystems or migrations of wildlife.</i></p> <p>2.1 <i>Short term effects such as increased incidence of storms, droughts and flood, changing business opportunities including for agriculture. Long term effects such as rising sea levels, changing patterns of insect borne disease, and migration of environmental refugees. Candidates should weigh the positive effects against the negative ones.</i></p> <p>2.2 <i>Energy saving in the home, efficient public transport, solar furnaces, Kyoto, carbon trading, restricted aviation.</i></p>
<p>Theme 3 Living in an Active Zone</p> <p>1. Why are plate margins hazardous?</p> <p>2. How can the risks associated with volcanic and earthquake zones be reduced?</p>	<p>1.1 What are plate margins and how does plate movement generate a variety of landforms?</p> <p>1.2 What are the primary and secondary hazards associated with volcanoes and earthquake zones?</p> <p>1.3 Why do people continue to live in hazard zones?</p> <p>2.1 How are volcanoes monitored and what does this tell us about their state?</p> <p>2.2 How might the effects of volcanic eruptions and earthquakes be reduced? Coverage must include countries at different levels of development.</p>	<p>1.1 <i>Landforms associated with constructive and destructive plate margins such as volcanoes, ocean trenches, rift valleys.</i></p> <p>1.2 <i>Case study of one major tectonic event e.g. earthquakes: Boxing Day Tsunami (2004), Pakistan/Kashmir (2005); volcanic eruptions: Etna (Sicily), Grimsvotn (Iceland).</i></p> <p>1.3 <i>Study of Iceland or Etna: tourism, geo-thermal power, mineral exploitation, highly fertile soils.</i></p> <p>2.1 <i>Use of technology to monitor volcanic activity such as seismometers, tilt meters and gas readings e.g. Soufriere Hills, Montserrat.</i></p> <p>2.2 <i>Shorter term - evacuation of people, channelling lava flows, aerial bombing. Longer term - hazard mapping, new building technology, improved emergency planning, e.g. Japan and California.</i></p>

**UNIT 1 – The Core
B – A Global World**

Key Questions	Enquiry questions	Exemplification
Theme 4 Changing Populations		
1. Where do people live?	1.1 Where do people live in the world and why do they live there?	1.1 <i>Examine factors influencing world distribution of population such as climate, relief soils and minerals. Examine global patterns of urban population to find out which continents are the most urbanised and why the urban population in some regions is so large.</i>
	1.2 What are the push / pull factors that produce rural – urban migration and urban-rural migration? Coverage must include countries at different levels of development.	1.2 <i>Inequalities of wealth and opportunity in LEDCs. Case study of a LEDC city. Perceived better quality of life in MEDCs' rural areas. Case study of a MEDC to illustrate this.</i>
2. What will happen to the world population?	2.1 What are the factors that influence birth and death rates?	2.1 <i>Identification and explanation of how different factors influence birth rates and death rates.</i>
	2.2 How do differences in birth and death rates affect population numbers and structures in South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and Western Europe?	2.2 <i>Understand how population pyramids reflect population structure in different parts of the world.</i>
	2.3 How may these differences change in the future?	2.3 <i>Impact of HIV especially in sub-Saharan Africa, increased access to family planning, better education and increasing wealth in South Asia, pro-natal policies in Germany or Italy, effects of large scale migrations.</i>

Key Questions	Enquiry questions	Exemplification
<p>Theme 5 Globalisation</p> <p>1. What is globalisation?</p> <p>2. What are the impacts of globalisation on countries at different levels of development?</p>	<p>1.1 How have changes in business and technology allowed increased interdependence between countries?</p> <p>1.2 What are the benefits of globalisation and why do some see it as a threat?</p> <p>2.1 What have been the social and economic impacts of the enlargement of the EU?</p> <p>2.2 How have newly industrialised countries such as India and China benefited from globalisation?</p> <p>2.3 How have patterns of trade hindered economic progress in the least economically developed countries?</p>	<p>1.1 Consider the role of TNCs and technology in creating closer interdependence: technology, including the internet; growth of air travel; growth in global media and sharing of culture. Use of Eurostat to collect secondary data on growth of internet, mobile phone use.</p> <p>1.2 Consider opposing attitudes on issues such as: dominance of US media and culture; global security; loss of national identity. Compare the positive and negative impacts of TNCs.</p> <p>2.1 Map migrant flows from Poland and other Accession countries into western Europe.</p> <p>2.3 Protectionist policies including tariffs, subsidies and quotas. Case study of EU tomato and chicken dumping in West Africa.</p>
<p>Theme 6 Development</p> <p>1. How are global patterns of development identified?</p> <p>2. What progress is being made towards achieving the Millennium Development goals?</p>	<p>1.1 How is economic and social development measured and what are the global patterns?</p> <p>1.2 What are the regional patterns of economic and/or social development in one country?</p> <p>2.1 What are the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and how are governments and non-governmental organisations addressing them?</p> <p>2.2 What progress is being made by South Asian countries towards the MDGs?</p> <p>2.3 What progress is being made by sub-Saharan African countries towards the MDGs?</p>	<p>1.1 Compare the effectiveness of four different measures such as GNP, \$ per day, life expectancy and HDI. Use http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/ to map HDI</p> <p>1.2 Use www. To investigate regional inequalities in South Africa. http://www.statssa.gov.za/census01/html/default.asp</p> <p>2.1 Use http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/ to focus on MDGs for reduction of poverty, improving access to water, achieving universal primary education, reducing gender inequality.</p> <p>2.2 Use the animated graphics on http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/data to measure the relative progress of India or Bangladesh compared to Ghana or Kenya.</p> <p>2.3 Use the animated graphics on http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/ to measure the relative progress of India or Bangladesh compared to Ghana or Kenya</p>

Unit 2 - The Options
Choose one physical, one human and one other

Unit 2
A – Physical Options

Key Questions	Enquiry questions	Exemplification
<p>Theme 7 Our Changing Coastline</p> <p>1. What are coastal processes and what landforms do they create?</p> <p>2. How are coasts managed?</p> <p>3. How should coastal environments be managed in the future?</p>	<p>1.1 What processes are associated with the sea?</p> <p>1.2 What landforms result from these processes? Coverage must include arches and spits.</p> <p>1.3 How do these landforms and processes affect the lives of people living along the coast?</p> <p>2.1 What are the advantages and disadvantages of hard and soft engineering strategies used to manage our coasts?</p> <p>3.1 Why are sea levels changing and how will these changes affect people?</p> <p>3.2 What is the most sustainable way to manage our coastline in the face of rising sea levels?</p>	<p>1.1 <i>Explanation of marine processes associated with erosion, transport and deposition.</i></p> <p>1.2 <i>Fieldwork, field sketching, photographic interpretation, OS mapwork, DVD analysis to show effects of processes on landforms such as headlands, bays, cliffs, beaches, spits.</i></p> <p>1.3 <i>Case studies of tourist/fishing developments.</i></p> <p>2.1 <i>Internet/newspaper research. Examples of hard engineering - sea walls, gabions, rip rap - expensive but warranted? Soft engineering e.g. managed retreat in Essex. Conflicting opinions about the loss of low value agricultural land that occurs when coastlines are allowed to retreat in order to create mud flat buffers.</i></p> <p>3. <i>Comparative studies of sea level rise in SE England and Bangladesh. Decision making exercise: When might it be appropriate to 'retreat the line' or 'do nothing' rather than 'hold the line' when managing coasts?</i></p>

Key Questions	Enquiry questions	Exemplification
<p>Theme 8 Weather and Climate</p> <p>1. What are the differences in climate within the UK?</p> <p>2. How does the weather create hazards for people?</p> <p>3. Can we manage weather hazards?</p>	<p>1.1 What factors create the variations in weather and climate experienced within and around the British Isles?</p> <p>2.1 What are these weather hazards associated with high and low air pressure systems over the British Isles and with tropical storms?</p> <p>2.2 How do weather hazards affect people, the economy and the environment?</p> <p>3.1 How can technology be used to (i) forecast extreme weather and (ii) to reduce the impact of its effects?</p>	<p>1. <i>Description and explanation of the influence of altitude, aspect, air masses and air pressure in creating temperature and precipitation patterns. Contrast climate and weather patterns between upland Wales and Eastern England</i></p> <p>2. <i>Description of the impact of gales, floods, droughts in the UK and the impact of tropical storms in an LEDC and an MEDC. Internet and DVD research e.g. Katrina. Comparison of storms between USA and Jamaica or Japan and Bangladesh.</i></p> <p>3. <i>Evaluate using examples from MEDCs and LEDC strategies for managing the effects of floods and storms in UK, tropical storms i.e. weather forecasting including satellite technology, building storm shelters, and using natural buffers (such as mangroves or mudflats). Note variation in effectiveness of technology between MEDCs and LEDCs.</i></p>
<p>Theme 9 Living Things</p> <p>1. What are biomes and how do they differ?</p> <p>2. How are ecosystems managed?</p> <p>3. What are the likely consequences if ecosystems continue to be damaged?</p>	<p>1.1 How does the physical environment interact with living things to produce different large scale ecosystems?</p> <p>1.2 How is the global distribution of large scale ecosystems influenced by climate?</p> <p>2.1 In what ways do people use ecosystems?</p> <p>2.2 How can ecosystems be managed sustainably?</p> <p>3.1 What is the evidence that ecosystems are being used unsustainably?</p> <p>3.2 What are the local and global consequences of unsustainable ecosystem use on people and the environment?</p>	<p>1.1 <i>Identify the links between living and non-living parts of an ecosystem. Appreciate that ecosystems exist at different scales.</i></p> <p>1.2 <i>Investigate the influence of temperature, rainfall (both amount and incidence) on large scale ecosystems such as tundra, monsoon rainforest and xerophytic biomes.</i></p> <p>2.1 <i>Identification and analysis of human impact on one located ecosystem to demonstrate the various ways in which it is being used such as: logging, agriculture, fishing.</i></p> <p>2.2 <i>Evaluate strategies such as ecotourism, selected logging, national parks, cycle ways and fishing quotas.</i></p> <p>3. <i>An outline of the main findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment www.millenniumassessment.org/ with an evaluation of the negative impacts of ecosystem degradation on economic activity, water quality, and possible extinctions.</i></p>

Unit 2
B – Human Options

Key Questions	Enquiry Questions	Exemplification
Theme 10 Tourism		
1. Why does the nature of tourism differ between one place and another?	1.1 What are the factors both physical and human, that affect the nature of tourism? 1.2 In what ways and why is tourism changing?	1.1 <i>Landscape, climate, distinctive flora and fauna, availability of hotels, camp sites, entertainment, theme parks, accessibility.</i> 1.2 <i>How is tourism changing: type of holidays taken e.g. activity, cruise, self-catering, long-haul, decline in beach holidays, more destinations with long-haul flights, more short breaks. Reasons for growth such as: increased leisure time, greater affluence, cheaper flights, internet booking, increased advertising.</i>
2. What are the impacts of tourism?	2.1 What are the impacts of the development of tourism on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people and the economy? • the environment? Coverage must include regions at different levels of economic development.	2.1 <i>Cost-benefit analysis of the impact of tourism on an LEDC and on an MEDC. New buildings, roads, effects on local agriculture, increased employment, greater demand for water, loss of local culture, traffic jams (pollution), increasing carbon footprint, problem of second homes.</i>
3. How can tourism be developed in a sustainable fashion?	3.1 How may tourism be developed in a sustainable way?	3. <i>Extension of holiday season, eco-tourism in rainforest; clean up of damage done in the past, UK National Parks or industrial heritage sites.</i>
Theme 11 Retail and Urban Change		
1. In what different ways are European city centres being renewed?	1.1 How are European city centres changing? 1.2 What are the effects of city centre changes on their day time and night time geographies?	1.1 <i>Briefly outline different types of city centre changes such as waterfront development or gentrification.</i> 1.2 <i>Examine the social and economic advantages and disadvantages of regeneration of city centres and/or inner urban areas. This might include patterns of gentrification or the rise in anti-social behaviour / crime in the evening in depopulated city centres. Examples might include Cardiff, Manchester, Bilbao, Barcelona (Olympics and waterfront development).</i>
2. What are the current patterns of retailing in European cities?	2.1 Where does retailing occur in the city? 2.2 How is retailing changing and what effects does this have upon people and the environment?	2.1 <i>Urban fieldwork, use of internet and or GIS to map retail land use in CBD, local shopping centres and urban fringe retail parks.</i> 2.2 <i>Questionnaire analysis: impacts of Internet shopping on high street (e.g. book and cd stores). Impacts of pedestrianisation schemes.</i>
3. How do changes in European consumer choice have a global impact?	3.1 What are the impacts of increasing consumer choice on people in developing countries, and on the global environment?	3. <i>Investigate trends in organic, Fair trade and ethical consumerism e.g. impact of Fair Trade cocoa in Ghana. Investigate consumer attitudes towards food miles.</i>

Key Questions	Enquiry Questions	Exemplification
<p>Theme 12 Economic Change and Wales</p> <p>1. What are the current types of employment in Wales?</p> <p>2. What is the future of employment in Wales?</p> <p>3. What changes are likely to take place in energy supply and demand in Wales?</p>	1.1 How do we classify work and employment?	1.1 <i>Classification using primary, secondary, tertiary, public/private sectors, knowledge based etc. Analysis of census data using www.statistics.gov.uk and news reports from internet and the media.</i>
	1.2 Is there a spatial pattern to this classification of work?	1.2 <i>Primary (farming and forestry) significant only in upland areas. Secondary - significant along and adjacent to M4 and N.E. Wales. Tertiary - significant along coast (tourism) and in towns and cities.</i>
	2.1 How and why are these patterns of work changing?	2.1 <i>Consider likely changes in primary and tertiary industries such as Diversification to continue, organic GM crops. Effects of E.U. policies and WAG implementations.</i>
	2.2 What may be the impacts of these changes?	2.2 <i>Consider environmental, social and economic impacts such as possible population decline in remote rural areas or increased population in coastal regions.</i>
	3.1 How does Wales supply its current energy needs?	3.1 <i>Mostly using fossil fuels. Imported coal and gas. Electricity from National grid mainly from coal, oil and gas fired power stations and some nuclear. Limited amounts of energy from renewables.</i>
	3.2 What future changes may take place in energy sources and in demand?	3.2 <i>Increase in wind power generation; possibility of Severn barrage tidal scheme; renewed interest in nuclear expansion; bio fuel Port Talbot, continued use of coal, oil initiatives, technological changes.</i>
	3.3 What conflicts of opinion are these changes to supply likely to introduce?	3.3 <i>Debate re. effects of wind farms on wild life and scenic beauty, Severn barrage on estuarine environment; nuclear dangers and waste disposal, etc.</i>

3 SCHEME OF ASSESSMENT

3.1 Scheme of Assessment

Assessment for GCSE Geography A is tiered, i.e. externally assessed components/units are targeted at the grade ranges of A*-D (Higher Tier) and C-G (Foundation Tier), while controlled assessments cater for the full range of ability. Questions and tasks will be designed to enable candidates to demonstrate what they know, understand and can do.

Tier	Grades Available
Higher	A*, A, B, C, D
Foundation	C, D, E, F, G

This is a linear specification: all assessments must be taken at the end of the course.

The scheme of assessment will consist of:

75% external assessment through two written papers, and an internal controlled assessment component of 25%.

- The papers are divided on a basis of content.

Unit 1	assesses the Core themes in the specification.
Unit 2	assesses the Optional themes in the specification.

- Each paper has two tiers.

Unit 1 (40%)

Higher Tier targeting grades A* - D. 1 hour 45 minutes

Foundation Tier targeting grades C - G. 1 hour 45 minutes

Unit 2 (35%)

Higher Tier targeting grades A* - D. 1 hour 15 minutes

Foundation Tier targeting grades C - G. 1 hour 15 minutes

- **Controlled Assessment**

The WJEC GCSE Geography A specification meets all the regulations for controlled assessment as laid down by the regulatory authorities.

The controlled assessment task is worth 25% of the total marks available for the specification.

The controlled assessment is a compulsory component of GCSE Geography.

It complements the external examination by offering a distinct means of assessing the ability of candidates to:

- identify, analyse and evaluate relevant geographical questions and issues;
- establish appropriate sequences of investigation incorporating geographical skills, including enquiry skills;
- extract and interpret information from a range of different sources, including field observations, maps (including Ordnance Survey maps of different scales), drawings, photographs (ground, aerial and satellite imagery), diagrams and tables;
- describe, analyse and interpret evidence, make decisions, draw and justify conclusions and communicate findings in ways appropriate to the task audience;
- evaluate methods of collecting, presenting and analysing evidence, and the value and limitations of evidence and conclusions.

Controlled assessment provides candidates with the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and application of geographical principles within the context of a rich learning experience. A requirement of the regulatory criteria is that **fieldwork is an integral part of controlled assessment**. The investigation for Task 1 **must** contain a fieldwork element involving the collection of primary data within the research phase. Fieldwork, where appropriate, may also form part of the research for Task 2.

Candidates must complete two separate tasks:

1. A fieldwork enquiry worth 10%. This is a narrowly focused task based on fieldwork and supportive secondary data and presented as a short report with illustrative data.
2. A problem-solving/decision-making research exercise worth 15%. This task will be based on classroom teaching and individual research which may include fieldwork. It requires candidates to explore a relevant question from one of the core or optional themes and use the data to communicate ideas and make and justify decisions. The candidate may choose the mode of presentation. For example, it could be a newspaper article, a PowerPoint presentation, a Photo Story, essay or oral presentation.

3.2 Assessment Objectives

Candidates will be required to demonstrate their ability to:

Assessment Objectives		% weighting
AO1	Recall, select, and communicate their knowledge and understanding of places, environments and concepts	35%
AO2	Apply their knowledge and understanding in familiar and unfamiliar contexts	30%
AO3	Select and use a variety of skills, techniques and technologies to investigate, analyse and evaluate questions and issues	35%

The weighting of assessment objectives across examination components is as follows:

		AO1	AO2	AO3	Total
Unit 1 (F/H)		15%	10%	15%	40%
Unit 2 (F/H)		15%	10%	10%	35%
Unit 3 Controlled Assessment	Fieldwork Enquiry	2%	3%	5%	25%
	DME	3%	7%	5%	
Total Weighting		35%	30%	35%	100%

3.3 Quality of Written Communication

For components involving extended writing (in all three components) candidates will be assessed on the quality of their written communication within the overall assessment of that component.

Mark schemes for these components include the following specific criteria for the assessment of written communication:

- legibility of text; accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar; clarity of meaning;
- selection of a form and style of writing appropriate to purpose and to complexity of subject matter;
- organisation of information clearly and coherently; use of specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Additional raw marks have been added to Unit 2 to reward candidates' ability to spell, punctuate and use grammar accurately, in accordance with Appendix A of *Regulations for the Assessment of the Quality of Written Communication*. These additional marks do not affect the weighting of assessment objectives as outlined in Section 3.2.

4 AWARDING, REPORTING AND RE-SITTING

GCSE qualifications are reported on an eight point scale from A* to G, where A* is the highest grade. The attainment of candidates who do not succeed in reaching the lowest possible standard to achieve a grade is recorded as U (unclassified), and they do not receive a certificate.

This is a linear specification in which all assessments must be taken at the end of the course. Where candidates wish to re-sit, external components must be re-taken. The controlled assessment component may also be re-taken according to guidelines given in 'Administration of Controlled Assessment'. Alternatively, the UMS mark for this component may be carried forward for aggregation with the external components when these are re-taken.

Individual unit results for the overall subject award will be expressed as a uniform mark on a scale common to all GCSE qualifications (see table below). The grade equivalence will be reported as a lower case letter (a*) to (g) on results slips but not on certificate.

	MAX UMS	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
UNIT 1 (weighting 40%)	80	72	64	56	48	40	32	24	16
UNIT 2 (weighting 35%)	70	63	56	49	42	35	28	21	14
UNIT 3 (weighting 25%)	50	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10
GCSE Qualification	200	180	160	140	120	100	80	60	40

5

ADMINISTRATION OF CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

Candidates must complete two tasks selected from those provided by WJEC and contextualised to best suit their centre specific circumstances including location and availability and access to resources.

All documentation (CAA 1, 2, 3) relating to the marking of the controlled assessment will be available on the WJEC website and included in the Teachers' Guide. The submission date for the sample moderation will also be given.

Each task should be marked separately but with an aggregate total out of 100 (50 UMS).

Each task will be teacher assessed and subject to external moderation.

The controlled assessment tests all the assessment objectives for GCSE Geography A within the weightings stipulated by the regulatory authorities.

AO1	Recall, select, and communicate their knowledge and understanding of places, environments and concepts	Task 1 - 2% Task 2 - 3% 5%
AO2	Apply their knowledge and understanding in familiar and unfamiliar contexts	Task 1 - 3% Task 2 - 7% 10%
AO3	Select and use a variety of skills, techniques and technologies to investigate, analyse and evaluate questions and issues	Task 1 - 5% Task 2 - 5% 10%

LEVELS OF CONTROL

The criteria and terminology for controlled assessment, as stipulated by the regulatory authorities, are common across **all** awarding bodies and **all** GCSE specifications in Geography. Controlled assessment in GCSE Geography A is split into three stages:

- task setting
- task taking
- task marking

For each stage, the regulatory authorities have specified a certain level of control to ensure that the conditions under which the tasks are set, carried out and marked are robust and consistent between centres and Awarding Bodies. These controls will ensure that the assessment is valid, reliable and authenticated with a high degree of confidence.

TASK SETTING

A high level of control is specified for both tasks

- For both the fieldwork and decision-making enquiries, WJEC will publish a range of approved generic tasks which are comparable in nature.
- The list of approved tasks will be published annually on the WJEC website prior to each two year cycle.
- From the range of tasks provided, centres will select **one** Fieldwork Enquiry and **one** Problem Solving/Decision Making Exercise.
- The tasks will be developed to ensure that centres can contextualise each one to best suit their centre-specific circumstances, for example, location, staff expertise and resource provision.
- **Centres must not use the same contextualised task in consecutive years.**
- WJEC will publish a 'Teachers' Guide' to exemplify how to develop the fieldwork and the problem solving/decision-making enquiries into appropriate tasks.
- An Adviser, appointed by WJEC, will provide support, where needed, on the development of the chosen tasks within the parameters stated in the specification.
- **Centres are encouraged to develop the tasks for controlled assessment as an integral part of the delivery of the core and/or optional themes. Controlled assessment is seen as the natural outcome of the teaching and learning process and not necessarily additional to content delivery.**
- **Centres should recognise that controlled assessment tasks must be manageable in terms of the time allocation and can be presented in a range of different modes.**

The Tasks

- For the controlled assessment, candidates are required to complete two tasks:
 1. The fieldwork enquiry;
 2. The problem solving/decision making exercise.

Centres will choose from the list of generic topics provided and develop both tasks to best suit the candidates within the centre. The lists provided will provide a choice from each of the themes and enable centres, if they wish, to develop both tasks based on the same theme but at **different scales and locations**.

TASK TAKING

There are two phases of **Task Taking**.

(A) Research/data collection

A limited level of control is specified for both tasks.

(B) Analysis and Evaluation

A high level of control is specified for both tasks.

(A) Research/data collection

Research is carried out under limited control.

- *Authenticity control.*

The research work/data collection must be supervised by the teacher and guidance given regarding the appropriate sources of research that are applicable for the investigation chosen.

Teachers must keep a detailed log of any general advice given to all candidates (Forms CAA2 and CAA3). The nature of any additional advice, both oral and written, given to individual candidates should be dated and logged. Centres will be required to authenticate when and where candidates carry out and complete their research work under supervision.

It is sometimes necessary for the teacher to provide some research material to all candidates. This is because gaining access to such material may be problematic for candidates and/or organisations do not wish to be inundated with multiple requests for the same information. In these instances the teacher must record and keep examples of any pieces of research material that are given to all candidates.

- *Feedback control*

Teachers can comment on the research work being undertaken by candidates e.g. on the nature and suitability of the research methodology a candidate has chosen to adopt or the suitability of a questionnaire for primary research.

Any support, both oral and written, given to candidates should be dated and logged. It should indicate clearly the exact nature of the advice. In some cases it may be minimal and merely give candidates a steer in the right direction in other cases it may be detailed and need to be borne in mind when making the final assessment.

- *Time control*

The total time allocated to this element of the controlled assessment is 5 hours maximum for each of the two tasks. This time span is designed to accommodate the needs of those candidates who need extra time due to, for example, learning difficulties.

- *Collaboration control*

The work of the individual may be informed by working with others e.g. in constructing a questionnaire and gathering evidence but candidates must provide an individual response.

- *Resources control*

Candidates' access to resources is determined by those available to the centre and can include secondary research methods such as use of the internet, journals, books, material from relevant organisations and by means of primary fieldwork.

(B) Analysis and evaluation

Overall this aspect has a **high** level of control.

- *Authenticity control*

Candidates complete all work under direct formal supervision and bring research material as specified for the tasks below. This material must be included with the final piece of work.

Candidates can complete the work in hand-written form or by using ICT.

- *Feedback control*

During the completion of the controlled assessment, teachers are allowed to communicate with candidates to clarify issues, but not to offer suggestions or solutions. Teachers can give help regarding technical issues.

- *Time control*

Candidates are allowed 5 hours maximum for the analysis and evaluation phase (high level of control) of the fieldwork enquiry.

Candidates are allowed 8 hours maximum for the analysis and evaluation phase (high level of control) of the problem solving/decision making task.

Candidates with specific learning difficulties can be given extra time as defined in '*Access Arrangements, Reasonable Adjustments and Special Consideration – General and Vocational Qualifications*'.

- *Collaboration control*

Candidates must complete all work independently.

- *Resource control*

Research material is limited to that outlined in Authenticity Control.

TASK MARKING

A medium level of control is specified for both tasks.

- The completed task can be presented in a range of different modes e.g. PowerPoint, video/photo sequence, oral, GIS etc. or as a more traditional written report. This should only be a few pages long, or about 6 – 8 slides with notes, as determined by the time allocation. The teacher marks the work using the mark criteria on pages 34-36 and 39-41.
- The awarding body externally moderates the marks using a random sample, consistent with *Code of Practice* requirements.
- The date for submission of the sample and the documentation (CAA 1, 2, 3) will be available on the WJEC website.

Guidelines for Controlled Assessment

Task 1 - Fieldwork Enquiry

- Teachers discuss the assessment objectives and the assessment criteria with the candidates. WJEC will appoint an Adviser to provide support, where needed, on how to carry out the task (including choice of field location, marks carried out to obtain primary data, secondary data to be used and a proportionate amount of time to be spent on the research phase).
- To ensure that tasks are comparable in nature, a **Route for Enquiry** should be followed. This will also ensure that candidates use and apply the skills outlined in *GCSE controlled assessment regulations for Geography*.
- The approved fieldwork task will be couched in the form of a generic task. The centre must provide candidates with a contextualised task. Candidates will need to follow the route for enquiry to ensure access to all parts of the mark scheme.
- Fieldwork can be carried out at any time during the two-year cycle. Candidates follow the teacher's instructions and may work in groups to collect data and may discuss findings with the teacher. The time taken for fieldwork is at the centre's discretion and will depend on the context but will probably be carried out in no more than one day. Fieldwork may be teacher led or may be field centre based and delivered by a provider. A field centre may provide the opportunity to do the controlled assessment task over a compact period of time.
- During the research/data collection phase candidates need not all be in the same area at the same time. They will be able to research and represent their primary and secondary data using any of the resources available at the centre, but must attach a full list of resources used including websites. Any such resources must be fully referenced. Centres will be required to authenticate that candidates complete their research work under supervision and that all materials gathered and collated are monitored and stored securely. The teacher decides what materials can be carried through to the next phase.
- The analysis and evaluation phase should take no more than 5 hours to complete and the teacher will ensure that a high level of control is maintained through supervision with no collaboration between candidates.
- Work can be hand written and hand produced and cartographic skills are encouraged. However, where opportunities exist to use ICT and new technology to access GIS, collate group work findings and present results, these should be promoted.
- A common mark scheme will be used for assessment purposes. This will ensure that the task meets all of the assessment objectives relating to Knowledge and Understanding, Application and Skills.

The Route for Enquiry

The work produced by candidates should reflect the route of enquiry below.

Suggested steps in geographical enquiry are:

Task Setting

An externally set task for investigation, selected from the published list of approved tasks, is contextualised and developed by the teacher in terms of a question/questions to be addressed or a problem to be solved or an issue to be investigated. The objectives of the investigation are defined in specific terms. Assessment criteria are discussed.



Task Taking (Planning/Pre-fieldwork Phase)

Decisions are made concerning the data. What evidence is relevant? How can the evidence be collected? What sampling pattern should be used? Candidates should be encouraged to assist in the planning and design of the fieldwork and to access supporting data.



Task Taking (Fieldwork Phase) Up to one day

Evidence is collected and recorded.



Task Taking (Research Phase) Up to 5 hours

Evidence is presented.



Evidence is processed and presented statistically and graphically.



Task Taking (Analysis and Evaluation Phase) Up to 5 hours

Evidence is further selected and refined, analysed and interpreted.



Conclusions are drawn relating to the original objectives.



The investigation is evaluated in relation to the limitations of the evidence and validity of the conclusions. Improvements or further investigation are suggested.

In preparing candidates for the analysis and evaluation phase, teachers should provide guidance on how the mark scheme will be applied. In advance of undertaking the enquiry, candidates should recognise that they:

- need to show their **knowledge and understanding (AO1)** of the place and the key ideas that underpin the enquiry. They should be able to select, recall and communicate knowledge relating to linked geographical concepts and theories, using specialised geographical terms.
- need to **apply (AO2)** their knowledge and understanding of the place and question being studied to their wider geographical studies, particularly with reference to other places. Moreover, they should be able to ask relevant geographical questions relating to the enquiry statement and consider future developments.
- should be able to show a range of geographical **skills (AO3)**: such as:
 - selecting and processing data using a range of techniques which may include utilising graphical skills, annotating photographs and / or sketches, utilising illustrations, mapping, refining material gained from ICT sources
 - being able to describe, analyse and interpret evidence before reaching conclusions related to the central enquiry question and to the wider geographical questions being considered
 - evaluating the methods of collecting, presenting and analysing evidence, and the validity and limitations of the evidence and conclusions
 - presenting the enquiry in a logical sequence and using effective communication skills.

Mark Scheme for the fieldwork enquiry:

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Knowledge and Understanding (AO1)		
4	7 – 8	The candidate is able to recall, select and communicate detailed knowledge and thorough understanding relating to the enquiry question or hypothesis and is able to draw detailed conclusions that are fully consistent with the evidence presented. Geographical terminology is used accurately and appropriately.
3	5 - 6	The candidate is able to recall, select and communicate knowledge and understanding relating to the enquiry question or hypothesis and is able to reach sound conclusions which are consistent with the evidence presented. Geographical terminology is used appropriately.
2	3 - 4	The candidate is able to recall and communicate some knowledge and understanding relating to the enquiry question or hypothesis and is able to reach simple conclusions supported by the evidence presented. Ideas are communicated using some geographical terminology.
1	1 – 2	The candidate is able to recall and communicate some facts relating to the enquiry question or hypothesis with limited understanding. The candidate presents a mainly descriptive account where conclusions are missing or rarely presented.
	0	No evidence is submitted or the response is insufficient to meet the descriptor for Level 1.

Application (AO2)





4	10 - 12	The candidate is able, independently, to apply detailed knowledge and understanding of the enquiry to their wider geographical study in relation to geographical ideas, concepts and theories and to other locations. They are able to contextualise the findings of the enquiry in relation to wider geographical questions and make perceptive and informed conclusions.
3	7 - 9	The candidate is able, independently, to apply knowledge and understanding of the enquiry to some aspects of their wider geographical study, perhaps in relation to geographical ideas and concepts. They may be able to contextualise the findings of the enquiry and ask wider geographical questions and draw appropriate conclusions.
2	4 - 6	The candidate is able to apply some knowledge and understanding of the enquiry to their wider geographical study and draw some conclusions.
1	1 – 3	The candidate is able to apply limited knowledge and understanding of the enquiry to their wider geographical study and draw limited conclusions.
	0	No evidence is submitted or the response is insufficient to meet the descriptor for Level 1.

Skills (AO3)

4	16 – 20	The candidate identifies relevant questions and issues and identifies appropriate sequences to undertake an investigation independently. He/she selects, evaluates and accurately uses a wide range of relevant skills and appropriate techniques and technologies to collect, record, select, process, refine and present primary and secondary data. He/she analyses and interprets information from a range of different sources in a logical sequence and reflects on the validity and limitations of the evidence. Communication skills are highly developed, the text is legible and meaningful and the candidates can spell, punctuate and use the rules of grammar with almost faultless accuracy.
3	11 – 15	The candidate identifies questions and issues and identifies appropriate sequences to undertake an investigation independently. He/she candidate selects and uses, with reasonable accuracy, a range of relevant skills and appropriate techniques and technologies to collect, record, select, process, refine and present primary and secondary data. He/she analyses and interprets evidence logically from different sources and is able to comment on some of the limitations of the evidence. Communication skills are well developed, the text is legible and conveys meaning and the candidate can spell, punctuate and use the rules of grammar with accuracy.

2	6 – 10	The candidate selects and uses some skills, techniques and technologies with some accuracy to undertake an investigation and to collect, record, select, process, refine and present primary and secondary data in a fairly logical sequence and is able to comment on the work undertaken. He/she is able to show competence in spelling, punctuation and grammar.
1	1 – 5	The candidate selects and uses with limited accuracy some skills, techniques and technologies to undertake an investigation. He/she is able to collect, record, process, refine and present some primary or secondary data but the information may be presented without a logical sequence or structure. There are significant weaknesses in spelling, punctuation and grammar.
	0	No evidence is submitted or the response is insufficient to meet the descriptor for Level 1.

Summary

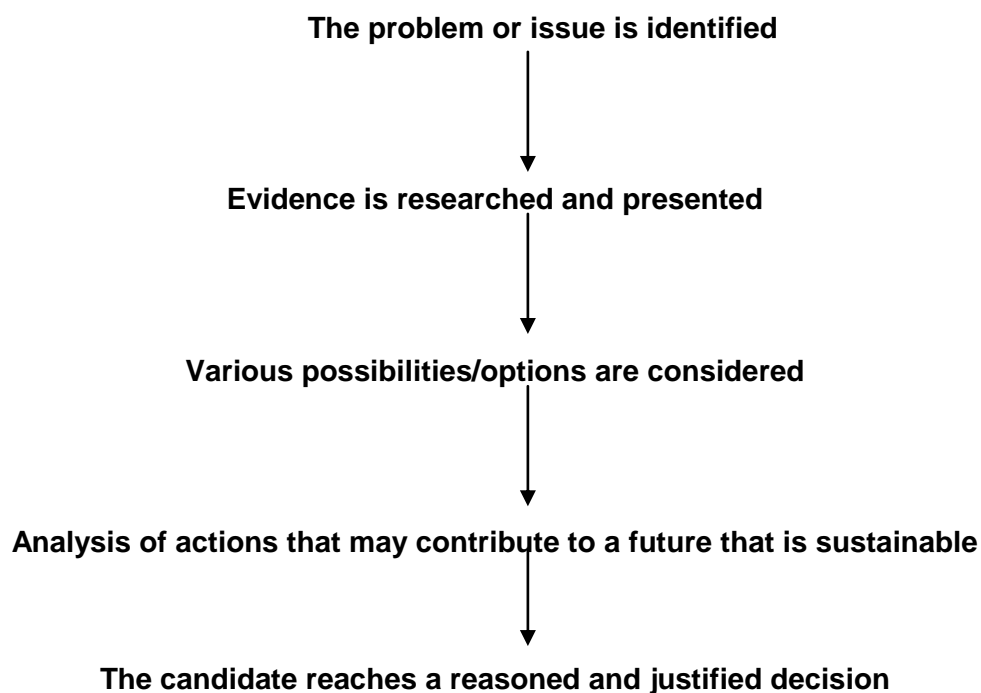
<p>Task setting (High Level of Control)</p> 	<p>WJEC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • publishes generic tasks on the WJEC website • sets criteria, levels of response and timing for the extended task. • sets guidelines for research work – collection of primary data (through fieldwork) and secondary data • provides guidance approval from an Adviser where required by centres. <hr/> <p>The Teacher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • selects the task/tasks from the options available • shares objectives, assessment criteria and route for enquiry with the candidates • contextualises the task with regard to location; resources and techniques used in primary data collection (fieldwork); secondary resources available; defining organising questions • may send ideas / refinements to the Adviser.
<p>Research phase (Limited Level of Control)</p> 	<p>Preliminary research and fieldwork is carried out. Candidates research and represent their primary and secondary data using any of the resources available at the centre, but must attach a full list of resources used including websites. (5 hours maximum).</p> <p>Centres will be required to authenticate where and when candidates carry out and complete their research work under supervision and that all materials gathered and collated are monitored and stored securely (Form CAA2).</p> <p>The teacher decides what materials can be carried forward to the next phase.</p>
<p>Analysis and Evaluation Phase (High Level of Control)</p> 	<p>The candidates begin the write-up (5 hours maximum) under controlled conditions. No teacher input, beyond guidance over the use of time, is allowed.</p> <p>Differentiation is facilitated by candidates shaping their write-up around the route for enquiry and selected organising questions.</p> <p>Candidates use primary data / consolidated data and secondary resources to complete the task.</p>
<p>Marking and Moderation (Medium Level of Control)</p> 	<p>The teacher marks the work using the prescribed mark scheme. Internal moderation takes place where more than one teacher is assessing the cohort.</p> <p>A sample of work is submitted with the appropriate coversheets to a moderator as designated by WJEC. Once all marks are submitted on-line (after 10 March) centres are informed of the specific candidates to send in the sample and can access the name and address of the moderator prior to despatching the work and accompanying paperwork to the moderator.</p>

Task 2 - Problem-solving/decision making (15% of the controlled assessment)

- Centres may discuss with the Adviser how the task may be contextualised to best suit the candidates in the centre. This includes the options for the mode of presentation to be used by candidates, the appropriateness of the resources to be used and the time requirement for the research/data collection phase. This should take up to 5 hours.
- The task will be based around an issue where differing opinions and / or geographical perspectives are held and where there may be alternative strategies. To ensure that tasks are comparable in nature, the **Framework for the problem-solving/decision making exercise** for approaching the task should be followed to ensure access to all parts of the mark scheme and an opportunity to use and apply the skills outlined in *GCSE controlled assessment regulations for Geography*.
- Work can be hand written and hand produced. However, where opportunities exist to use ICT and new technology, access GIS and present results e.g. podcasts, video etc., these should be promoted.
- A common mark scheme will be used for assessment purposes. This will ensure that the task meets all of the assessment objectives relating to Knowledge and Understanding, Application and Skills.
- The analysis and evaluation phase should take no more than 8 hours to complete and the teacher will ensure that a high level of control is maintained through supervision.

In preparing candidates for the analysis and evaluation phase, teachers should provide guidance to candidates on how the mark scheme will be applied. In advance of undertaking the enquiry, candidates should recognise that they:

- need to show their **knowledge and understanding (AO1)** of geographical concepts and theories related to the question, using specialised geographical terms
- need to **apply (AO2)** their knowledge and understanding of concepts and theories related to the question. The candidate makes a decision based on alternative strategies or suggests a resolution to the different alternatives and justifies the conclusions
- should be able to show a range of geographical **skills (AO3)**: such as:
 - research procedures to include referencing sources and recognising the limitations of source materials;
 - data processing and presentation techniques which may include utilising graphical skills, annotating photographs, utilising illustrations, mapping, refining material gained from ICT sources;
 - using effective communication skills to present the ideas.

Framework for the problem solving/decision making exercise**Mark Scheme for Task 2**

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Knowledge and Understanding (AO1)		
4	10 – 12	The candidate is able to recall, select and communicate detailed knowledge and thorough understanding relating to the question and to the location. Geographical terminology is used accurately and appropriately.
3	7 - 9	The candidate is able to recall, select and communicate knowledge and understanding relating to the question and to the location. Geographical terminology is used appropriately.
2	4 - 6	The candidate is able to recall and communicate some knowledge and understanding relating to the question and to the location. Ideas are communicated using some geographical terminology.
1	1 – 3	The candidate is able to recall and communicate some facts relating to the question and the location with limited understanding.
	0	No evidence is submitted or the response is insufficient to meet the descriptor for Level 1





Application (AO2)

4	22 - 28	The candidate is able, independently, to apply knowledge and understanding of the relevant concepts and ideas to the decision making context. He/she is able to understand and explain complex relationships between people and the environment evaluate the problem or issue and make perceptive and informed decisions based on a clear understanding of how these can contribute to a future that is sustainable.
3	15 - 21	The candidate is able, independently, to apply knowledge and understanding of the relevant concepts and ideas to the decision making context and is able to understand relationships between people and the environment, explain the problem or issue and makes reasoned decisions that show an understanding of sustainable approaches.
2	8 - 14	The candidate is able to apply some knowledge and understanding of the relevant concepts and ideas to the decision making context and is able to show some understanding of relationships between people and the environment. He/she identifies the problem or issue in basic terms and makes decisions giving some reasons and evidence.
1	1 – 7	The candidate is able to apply limited knowledge and understanding of some ideas to the decision making context and is able to recognise simple relationships between people and the environment. He/she identifies the problem or issue in very basic terms and makes decisions based on simple reasons and evidence.
	0	No evidence is submitted or the response is insufficient to meet the descriptor for Level 1

Skills (AO3)

4	16 – 20	The candidate independently selects and uses relevant information from a range of sources which are accurately referenced. He/she identifies vested interests and reflects on the validity of the sources used. He/she independently selects and uses, with accuracy, a range of techniques or technologies to process and present appropriate evidence. Communication skills are highly developed and the candidate is able to weigh up evidence available and present a very logical argument. The mode of presentation is entirely appropriate.
3	11 – 15	The candidate selects and uses relevant information from sources which are accurately referenced. He/she recognises some limitations / bias in the sources used. He/she selects and uses, with reasonable accuracy, techniques or technologies to process and present appropriate evidence. Communication skills are well developed and ideas are presented logically. The mode of presentation is appropriate.
2	6 – 10	The candidate selects and uses sources which are referenced with some accuracy. He/she selects and uses, with some accuracy, some techniques or technologies to present evidence relevant to the problem or issue. Communication skills are competent.
1	1 – 5	The candidate uses sources which are referenced with limited accuracy. He/she uses, with limited accuracy, some techniques or technologies to present some evidence relevant to the problem or issue. Communication skills are weak.
	0	No evidence is submitted or the response is insufficient to meet the descriptor for Level 1

Summary

<p>Task setting (High Level of Control)</p> 	<p>WJEC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> publishes generic tasks on the WJEC website sets criteria, levels of response and timing for the extended task sets guidelines for research work provides guidance approval where required by centres. <hr/> <p>The Teacher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> selects the task/tasks from the optional themes shares objectives, assessment criteria and guidelines with the candidates contextualises the task with regard to location; resources available; defining organising questions may send ideas / refinements to the WJEC Adviser.
<p>Research phase (Limited Level of Control)</p> 	<p>Research is undertaken (5 hours maximum). Candidates select and process data using any of the resources available at the centre, but must attach a fully referenced list of resources used including websites. Centres will be required to authenticate where and when candidates carry out and complete their research work under supervision and that all materials gathered and collated are monitored and stored securely (Form CAA3). The teacher decides what materials can be carried forward to the next phase.</p>
<p>Analysis and Evaluation Phase (High Level of Control)</p> 	<p>The candidates begin to refine their presentation (8 hours maximum) under controlled conditions. No teacher input, beyond guidance over the use of time, is allowed.</p> <p>Differentiation is facilitated by candidates shaping their write-up around the guidelines and selected organising questions, their selection of data and mode of presentation.</p> <p>Candidates analyse and interpret the data to reach a decision.</p>
<p>Marking and Moderation (Medium Level of Control)</p> 	<p>The teacher marks the work using the prescribed mark scheme. Internal moderation takes place where more than one teacher is assessing the cohort.</p> <p>A sample of work is submitted with the appropriate coversheets to a moderator as designated by WJEC. Instructions for the administration of internally-assessed work are given in the WJEC <i>Internal Assessment Manual</i>. Once all marks are submitted on-line (after 10 March) centres are informed of the specific candidates to send in the sample and can access the name and address of the moderator prior to despatching the work and accompanying paperwork to the moderator.</p>

Annotation of Controlled Assessment

Candidates work submitted for moderation **must** be annotated. This may be achieved by:

- (i) summative comments on the controlled assessment cover sheets (CAA2 and 3);
- (ii) annotation of the candidates' controlled assessment tasks i.e. in the margin or in the text. This should be brief and to the point. Attention should be drawn where candidates provide evidence of attaining a certain level of performance in relation to the assessment objectives or where there are clear errors (e.g. errors of fact, interpretation, definition and theory) and where the work is irrelevant.

Annotation is to help the moderator understand more fully how the teacher has arrived at the mark awarded to the candidate.

Internal Moderation of Controlled Assessment

Centres must ensure that careful moderation is carried out where more than one teacher is responsible for the marking of the controlled assessment. This is necessary to ensure uniformity of standards within a centre. Where internal moderation is necessary the teacher assuming overall responsibility for this process should provide a written outline of the procedures that have been adopted for the external moderator.

External Moderation of Controlled Assessment

The moderation of teacher assessment will be provided by inspection of the controlled assessment by WJEC. Centres will be informed of the submission date for the controlled tasks in the published Examinations Timetable.

Instructions for the administration of internally-assessed work are given in the WJEC *Internal Assessment Manual*.

As a result of the moderation, the marks of candidates may be adjusted to bring the centre's marks into line with the national standard. If required, the moderator will ask for additional samples of work and if necessary, the work of all candidates may be called for and externally moderated regardless of entry numbers. In this case, all of the controlled assessments will be posted to the moderator.

It would assist the moderation process considerably if the marks for both tasks are submitted to the moderator on the CAA1 form for the candidates included in the sample.

In the event of concern over the awarding procedures, the normal appeals process will apply.

Authentication

Please note it is a requirement of the regulators that all forms are signed.

Candidates will be required to confirm in writing, with any exceptions stated, that the work has been completed unaided. This will be achieved by signing the controlled assessment cover sheet CAA2 and 3.

Teachers will be required to confirm in writing that, to the best of their knowledge, all the work submitted for moderation, with any exceptions stated, is the candidate's own unaided work. This will be achieved by signing the composite mark sheet (CAA1) and the controlled assessment cover sheets CAA 2 and 3.

Full details of any assistance given to particular candidates which is beyond that given to the teaching group as a whole should be indicated on CAA 2/3 and this should be taken into account when assessing the controlled assessment.

Recording of Controlled Assessment Marks

Form CAA1 will be used for recording marks to be sent to the moderator. Candidates should be listed in rank order and should only be those selected by the WJEC on-line system.

The tasks collectively must be marked out of 100.

Submission of Controlled Assessment

The following should be submitted:

- copies of the tasks;
- general notes of guidance given to candidates;
- a list of resource materials given to candidates;
- the composite mark sheets (CAA1);
- the controlled assessment in soft covered binders or folders with the coversheets (CAA 2/3) placed at the front;

Material that candidates may have acquired in their research such as multiple copies of questionnaires and pre-printed material from organisations should not be submitted.

Return of Controlled Assessment

The moderator will return work to centres when the moderation process is complete. A sample of work will be sent to the Chief Moderator and may be retained for use at Awarding or CPD or as exemplar material.

Retention of Controlled Assessment

Centres need to retain the controlled assessments until the end of November following the Summer Examination.

6

GRADE DESCRIPTIONS

Grade descriptions are provided to give a general indication of the standards of achievement likely to have been shown by candidates awarded particular grades. The descriptions must be interpreted in relation to the content specified by the specification; they are not designed to define that content. The grade awarded will depend in practice upon the extent to which the candidate has met the assessment objectives overall. Shortcomings in some aspects of candidates' performance in the assessment may be balanced by better performances in others.

Grade A

Candidates recall, select and communicate detailed knowledge and thorough understanding of places, environments, concepts and locations at a range of scales. They use geographical terminology accurately and appropriately.

They apply appropriate knowledge and understanding of a wide range of geographical concepts, processes and patterns in a variety of both familiar and unfamiliar physical and human contexts. They recognise and understand complex relationships between people and the environment, identifying and evaluating current problems and issues, and making perceptive and informed geographical decisions. They understand how these can contribute to a future that is sustainable.

They select, evaluate and use effectively a wide range of relevant skills and appropriate techniques and technologies. They identify relevant questions and issues and establish appropriate sequences to undertake investigations independently. They collect and record accurately a range of appropriate evidence from a wide range of sources, including fieldwork. They analyse and interpret information and critically evaluate its validity. They reflect on the limitations of evidence, detecting and responding to bias to make informed and reasoned judgements to present substantiated and appropriate conclusions.

Grade C

Candidates recall, select and communicate knowledge and understanding of places, environments, concepts and locations across different scales. They use geographical terminology appropriately.

They apply their knowledge and understanding of geographical concepts, processes and patterns in a variety of both familiar and unfamiliar physical and human contexts. They understand relationships between people and the environment, identifying and explaining different problems and issues and making geographical decisions that are supported by reasons, including sustainable approaches.

They select and use a variety of skills, and appropriate techniques and technologies to identify questions and issues to undertake investigations. They collect and record appropriate evidence from different sources, including fieldwork. They analyse and interpret evidence and recognise some of the limitations of evidence to reach plausible conclusions.

Grade F

Candidates recall, select and communicate knowledge and some limited aspects of understanding about places, environments and concepts at more than one scale. They communicate their ideas using everyday language.

They apply their understanding of some simple physical and human processes and patterns in different contexts. They recognise simple relationships between people and the environment. They identify problems and issues and make decisions informed by simple reasons and evidence.

They use skills and a limited number of techniques and technologies to undertake an investigation. They collect and record a limited selection of evidence from some sources, including fieldwork. They interpret evidence to reach some basic conclusions.

7

THE WIDER CURRICULUM

Key Skills

Key Skills are integral to the study of GCSE Geography A and may be assessed through the course content and the related scheme of assessment as defined in the specification. The following key skills can be developed through this specification at levels 1 and 2:

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Information and Communication Technology
- Working with Others
- Improving Own Learning and Performance

Mapping of opportunities for the development of these skills against Key Skills evidence requirement is provided in 'Exemplification of Key Skills for Geography A' and 'Exemplification of Essential Skills Wales for Geography A', available on WJEC website.

Opportunities for use of technology

This specification provides opportunities for candidates to use ICT to gain access to additional information sources, and assist in handling, presenting and analysing geographical evidence. The opportunities range from the classroom, where candidates can access electronic archives, search for and use appropriate websites for libraries, museum government agencies, to the examination context where the controlled assessment tasks can be based upon, utilise and be presented through ICT.

Spiritual, Moral, Ethical, Social and Cultural Issues

Geography is a subject that requires candidates to examine the actions of people and thereby poses issues about their perspectives, motivation and reactions. Through the study of contemporary societies candidates will have opportunities to reflect on a range of spiritual, moral, ethical, social and cultural issues.

Accordingly, the specification provides a framework and includes specific content through which individuals may address these issues. The controlled assessment may serve to extend understanding of the issues in order that a balanced appreciation of the conflicts and dilemmas involved may be encouraged. For example each of the optional units in Unit 2 and the decision making task allows candidates to address issues of sustainable futures, the ethical issues of individual and group responsibility and to express their personal views.

Examples of development opportunity:

Ethical/Moral Issue	Internal assessment of classwork that supports evidence of achievement
Reach an ethical judgement and express personal views.	<p><i>Theme 6, Key Question 2:</i> When addressing the issue of what 'development' means, candidates can investigate, at a range of scales, and make informed ethical judgements about the relationships between countries at different levels of development.</p> <p><i>Theme 9, Key Question 3:</i> When candidates are explaining why the impact of human activity on ecosystems needs careful management they can explore the ethical implications of sustainability and form an opinion of its merits.</p>

Citizenship

The specification offers a range of opportunities for candidates to develop citizenship knowledge, skills and understanding. These opportunities are especially evident in the content of this specification with its emphasis upon inter-dependence at a range of scales, including the global, planning issues, quality of life, and the delicate inter-relationship between people and their environment. For example, evidence of achievement will be generated by class work, which looks at local or regional differences in development and, in the process, considers the challenge of **sustainability** and the concept of **inter-dependence**.

Examples of development opportunity:

Citizenship	Internal assessment of classwork that supports evidence of achievement
Study the wider issues and challenges of global interdependence and responsibility, including sustainable development.	<p>Applicable to all themes but especially Theme 5.</p> <p>When candidates are explaining the differences in contrasting regions within or between countries, they can explore the challenge of sustainability and the concept of interdependence.</p>

Environmental Issues

The issues of *sustainable and inter-dependent development*, which are at the heart of the specification, are major foundations on which environmental education is built. Actions in one place have ramifications (often unpredictable) in others, and candidates need to be aware of the breadth and depth of unintended consequences of actions, as well as the implications of drawing too narrow a boundary around notions of costs and benefits.

Health and Safety Consideration

Health issues form a significant aspect of Core Theme 6 in terms of both measures of development and progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. These may provide an important focus for case studies and perhaps, for controlled assessment.

The European Dimension

Through their study of geography, candidates will strengthen and broaden their awareness of the factors that bring together the peoples and countries of Europe.

The above approach conforms to the aspirations expressed in the 1998 Resolutions of the Council of the European Community and the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council, concerning the European dimension in education and environmental education, particularly those intended at the level of member states.