

Your guide to the changes for 2021

Following an [Ofqual consultation in July 2020](#), we made changes to a number of our qualifications. These changes would have applied to the summer 2021 examinations, had they gone ahead. After [a further consultation](#), Ofqual confirmed the changes will now apply to the autumn 2021 examinations.

Please use [the specification](#) on our website alongside the information below, which explains how this qualification will differ in autumn 2021.

Overview of changes for GCSE Geography B

Students taking Geography in autumn 2021:

- will **not** be asked questions during the exams in relation to their own fieldwork experience.
- **will** still be asked questions during the exams on unfamiliar fieldwork contexts.
- Centres do **not** need to sign a Fieldwork Statement confirming that fieldwork has taken place on at least two occasions.

We have produced updated sample assessment material to show how the assessment will look in 2021.

To support students in preparing for the unfamiliar fieldwork questions, there are past paper examples which can be found on the Geography B qualification page, within Assessment. Fieldwork resources can be found within Planning and Teaching.

GCSE Geography B for academic year 2020/21

Students must complete all three assessments to be awarded a GCSE in geography in autumn 2021.

There has been **no** change to the specification content. Topics 1-8 ([specification pages 6-15](#)) and the geographical skills ([specification pages 17-18](#)) will need to be taught.

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Hazards Changing Climate Distinctive Landscapes Sustaining Ecosystems Fieldwork Geographical Skills 	<p>Our Natural World (01)</p> <p>63 marks</p> <p>1 hour 10 minutes written exam</p>	<p>34% of total GCSE</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban Futures Dynamic Development UK in the 21st Century Resource Reliance Fieldwork Geographical Skills 	<p>People and Society (02)</p> <p>62 marks</p> <p>1 hour 10 minutes written exam</p>	<p>34% of total GCSE</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geographical skills Decision Making Exercise 	<p>Geographical Exploration (03)*</p> <p>60 marks</p> <p>1 hour 30 minutes written exam</p>	<p>32% of total GCSE</p>

*Indicates inclusion of synoptic assessment.

There will be no changes to Component 03.

The changes to Components 01 and 02 are only in relation to fieldwork for section B.

- The qualification total has changed from 200 to 185 marks.
- The Component weightings have changed, Components 01 and 02 from 35% to 34% and Component 03 from 30% to 32%.

The following information refers to Components 01 and 02 **only**

- We will **remove** questions which relate to the student's own fieldwork experience in Components 01 and 02, this equates to 15 marks.
- There will **still be** questions related to **unfamiliar fieldwork** contexts in section B of Components 01 & 02. The questions will be in the same style as those shown in the Sample Assessment Materials, Practice Papers, and the past papers from 2018 and 2019.
- Component 01 - The unfamiliar fieldwork questions will relate to a **physical** fieldwork context. There will be **one** higher tariff question (**8 marks**) with a further 3 marks for SPAG.
The physical fieldwork context is **coasts**.
- Component 02 - The unfamiliar fieldwork questions will relate to a **human** fieldwork context. There will be **7 marks** for lower tariff questions.
The human fieldwork context is **urban**.
- The exam papers have **reduced** in marks, for component 01 from 70 to **63 marks** and component 02 from 70 to **62 marks**. This is to reflect the removal of the own fieldwork questions.
- The **duration** of both (01 & 02) exam papers has changed from 1 hour and 15 minutes to **1 hour and 10 minutes** (as own fieldwork questions have been removed).

What has changed?

What has changed - SAMs	Detail
Sample Assessment Material	In Components 01 and 02, questions related to student's own fieldwork experience have been removed. This equates to 15 marks.

What has changed - Specification	Detail																													
Fieldwork written statement	Centres do not need to sign a Fieldwork Statement confirming that fieldwork has taken place on at least two occasions (as per the specification).																													
Fieldwork	Fieldwork can be 'in the field' or through virtual fieldwork (classroom based). 'In the field' could include the school grounds and local area (to the school or student's home).																													
Assessment Objective weightings per component for autumn 2021	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Component</th> <th colspan="4">% of overall GCSE (9-1) in Geography B (Geography for Enquiring Minds) J384</th> </tr> <tr> <th>AO1</th> <th>AO2</th> <th>AO3</th> <th>AO4</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Our Natural World (J384/01)</td> <td>8</td> <td>8</td> <td>11</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>People and Society (J384/02)</td> <td>8</td> <td>8</td> <td>8</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Geographical Exploration (J384/03)</td> <td>0</td> <td>11</td> <td>13</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>16</td> <td>27</td> <td>32</td> <td>25</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The remaining 5% of marks are associated to Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar and the use of specialist terminology (please see section 3f of the specification).</p> <p>There will be 3 marks associated to SPaG in each of the three components' assessments.</p> <p>Within the assessments, 6% of the marks will be assessing AO3 applied in fieldwork context(s) and 3% of the marks will be associated with AO4 applied to responding to questions with fieldwork data and contexts.</p>	Component	% of overall GCSE (9-1) in Geography B (Geography for Enquiring Minds) J384				AO1	AO2	AO3	AO4	Our Natural World (J384/01)	8	8	11	7	People and Society (J384/02)	8	8	8	10	Geographical Exploration (J384/03)	0	11	13	8	Total	16	27	32	25
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