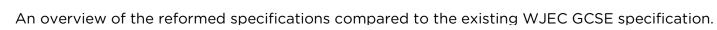
Specification Comparison





GCSE Geography A	What remains the same?	What is changing?
Aims	 The qualification continues to encourage an enquiry approach to issues-based geography Excellent progression to A level 	
Content	 There is still a mixture of core themes and options which provides a degree of choice and flexibility for teachers. Tectonics remains as an area of content, albeit as an option rather than a core theme. Teachers should be able to use some existing resources and lessons especially for themes like coasts, rivers and economic development. 	 There are fewer options in the new specification and the number of marks available for these options is proportionally lower than in the existing specification. Some themes that are currently optional are now core themes. These include weather and climate, ecosystems and urban change. There is a slightly greater focus on knowledge and understanding of the geography of the UK. Students must have the opportunity to take part in two contrasting fieldwork enquiries outside of the school grounds
Assessment	 Components 1 and 2 each assess a mixture of human and physical themes in a similar style to current Units 1 and 2. Longer, theme based questions will continue to use some scaffolding and include shorter, low tariff items as well as items with a higher tariff that require extended writing. The accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar will continue to be assessed by 'SPaG' marks that are added to the tariff of three extended responses, one in each component. 	 Grades 9-1 rather than A*-G. The qualification is non-tiered rather than tiered. Assessment is by examination only. Fieldwork is assessed as part of Component 3 rather than by controlled assessment. There are four assessment objectives (rather than three) because knowledge (AO1) has been separated from understanding (AO2). The wording of AO3 (the application of knowledge and understanding) has implications for greater student involvement in the enquiry process and decision making than at present. All higher tariff questions worth 8 marks (in Components 1 and 2) and 12 marks (in Component 3) will assess AO3. This means that extended writing no longer rewards 'case study' knowledge.