

Go to [www.ccea.org.uk/therevision](http://www.ccea.org.uk/therevision) to download the most up-to-date version of the **Geography Specification**

## Supporting You

We will be providing a range of resources to support the delivery of this specification. We will publish as many of our support materials as possible subject to copyright permission on our Geography microsite at [www.ccea.org.uk/geography](http://www.ccea.org.uk/geography).

The following resources are available to support this specification:

- specimen assessment materials; and
- guidance notes for teachers.

We also intend to provide:

- schemes of work;
- a resource list;
- centre support visits;
- support days for teachers;
- Chief Examiner's reports;
- exemplification of examination performance;
- past papers and mark schemes;
- e-books;
- a guide to using GIS in delivery of GCE Geography; and
- a guide to decision-making in A level Geography.

## Contact Us

If you have a query or require advice or guidance, please contact:

**Subject Officer with overall responsibility for this specification**

Margaret McMullan  
(028) 9026 1200 ext. 2285  
[mmcmullan@ccea.org.uk](mailto:mmcmullan@ccea.org.uk)

**Specification Support Officer**

Arlene Ashfield  
(028) 9026 1200 ext. 2291  
[aashfield@ccea.org.uk](mailto:aashfield@ccea.org.uk)

**3** good reasons to choose CCEA for your A level and GCSE provision



### We support Learners

CCEA places the learner at the centre of everything we do across the entire curriculum.



### We are Local

CCEA is Northern Ireland's awarding body – we understand local needs for local learners.



### We are Listening

CCEA listens to its customers to ensure better outcomes for learners through developing relevant, high quality and innovative specifications.

## Why Teach Geography?

Students have the opportunity to carry out their own fieldwork investigation and to develop key geographical and statistical skills.

Geography appeals to students who enjoy investigating how their world works. The qualification builds on knowledge and understanding gained in GCSE Geography, but also suits students who are studying GCE Environmental Technology or the Sciences.

Students acquire skills in report writing, investigation, in the analysis and interpretation of complex data and in justifying complex decisions. These skills are valued in further and higher education, as well as in the workplace.



CCEA'S REVISED GCE

# Geography

## Specification Snapshot



@ccea\_info



ccea.info



ccea.info



© CCEA 2016

COUNCIL FOR THE CURRICULUM, EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT

29 Clarendon Road, Clarendon Dock, Belfast BT1 3BG

Tel: +44(0)28 9026 1200 Fax: +44(0)28 9026 1234

Email: [info@ccea.org.uk](mailto:info@ccea.org.uk) Web: [www.ccea.org.uk](http://www.ccea.org.uk)



THE REVISION

For first teaching from September 2016

For first award of AS level in summer 2017

For first award of A level in summer 2018

# Geography

## Specification Snapshot



### Overview

The interactions between people, places and their environment are at the core of geography.

This new specification has been designed to provide young people with the knowledge and skills they need to be independent and successful geographers in this rapidly changing world. It reflects the multidisciplinary nature of the subject, and the skills developed will improve employability across the physical and natural sciences. Positive attitudes and values towards the world are promoted, and throughout the course students will consider their own attitudes and those of others to the world around them.

Progression through the course is clear with the choice and depth of content making the transition to higher level study achievable.



### Specification Summary

**AS 1: Physical Geography** – External exam 1 hour 15 mins, 40% of AS, 16% of A level

**AS 2: Human Geography** – External exam 1 hour 15 mins, 40% of AS, 16% of A level

**AS 3: Fieldwork Skills and Techniques** – External exam 1 hour, 20% of AS, 8% of A level

**A2 1: Physical Processes, Landforms and Management** –

External exam 1 hour 30 mins, 24% of A level

**A2 2: Processes and Issues in Human Geography** –

External exam 1 hour 30 mins, 24% of A level

**A2 3: Decision-Making in Geography** –

External exam 1 hour 30 mins, 12% of A level



### Benefits to Students

We have designed this specification to help learners develop:

- an understanding of geographical concepts and processes to help understand and interpret our changing world;
- an awareness of the complexity of interactions within and between societies, economies, cultures and environments at scales from local to global;
- as global citizens who recognise the challenges and implications of sustainability;
- as critical and reflective learners capable of making informed decisions about the world around them;
- as users of new technologies; and
- enjoyment, satisfaction and inspiration from their geographical studies.

Content	Content Summary	Assessment	Weightings
<b>AS 1: Physical Geography</b>	This unit comprises three themes covering key aspects of physical geography: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fluvial environments;</li> <li>• local and global ecosystems; and</li> <li>• processes that shape weather and climate.</li> </ul>	External written examination 1 hour 15 minutes  Section A: students answer three short, structured questions, one on each theme.  Section B: there are three questions requiring extended writing, one on each theme. Students answer any two questions.	40% of AS 16% of A level
<b>AS 2: Human Geography</b>	This unit comprises three themes covering key aspects of human geography: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• population;</li> <li>• settlement; and</li> <li>• development.</li> </ul>	External written examination 1 hour 15 minutes  Section A: students answer three short, structured questions, one on each theme.  Section B: there are three questions requiring extended writing, one on each theme. Students answer any two questions.	40% of AS 16% of A level
<b>AS 3: Fieldwork Skills and Techniques in Geography</b>	This unit comprises the skills and techniques required to undertake first-hand collection of geographical data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• choose an issue, hypothesis or question for investigation linked to AS Units 1 or 2;</li> <li>• develop an awareness of fieldwork safety;</li> <li>• choose and evaluate appropriate sampling techniques;</li> <li>• use a range of techniques to identify, select and collect quantitative and qualitative evidence from primary and secondary sources; and</li> <li>• describe, analyse, interpret and evaluate evidence and draw conclusions.</li> </ul>	External written examination 1 hour  A summary statement and table of raw data must be submitted by candidates with their examination paper.	20% of AS 8% of A level
<b>A2 1: Physical Processes, Landforms and Management</b>	This unit has four options from which students choose two: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plate Tectonics: Theory and Outcomes</li> <li>• Tropical Ecosystems: Nature and Sustainability</li> <li>• Dynamic Coastal Environments</li> <li>• Climate Change: Past and Present</li> </ul>	External written examination 1 hour 30 minutes  The paper has four sections. Each section corresponds to one of the four options and includes two structured questions. Students answer two questions, one from each of their two chosen options.	24% of A level
<b>A2 2: Processes and Issues in Human Geography</b>	This unit comprises four optional units from which two of the following must be chosen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural Geography</li> <li>• Planning for Sustainable Settlements</li> <li>• Ethnic Diversity</li> <li>• Tourism</li> </ul>	External written examination 1 hour 30 minutes  The paper has four sections. Each section corresponds to one of the four options and includes two structured questions. Students answer two questions, one from each of their two chosen options.	24% of A level
<b>A2 3: Decision-Making in Geography</b>	This is a compulsory decision-making exercise in the form of a case study. We present candidates with a variety of resources. Candidates must analyse, interpret and evaluate the information provided. Candidates may be asked to take on a particular role. We ask candidates to consider alternative choices and to make recommendations and justify them.	External written examination 1 hour 30 minutes	12% of A level