



Geography

**GCSE
GEOGRAPHY A
(For first teaching
September 2012)**

**IMPORTANT
INFORMATION**



OCR GCSE Geography A for September 2012 - re-accredited

GCSE Geography A has received accreditation for first teaching September 2012. Following the recent re-developments, some aspects of the content and assessment have changed.

Please see a summary of the key changes to GCSE Geography A for first teaching in September 2012 (first assessment 2014). The full details of the changes can be found in our accredited specification for Geography A and the sample assessment materials are available online at www.ocr.org.uk/geography

The controlled assessment task titles for 2014 will be available shortly to download from OCR Interchange.

Stay updated

Be the first to find out as GCSE Geography resources become available to download from our website by signing up to receive e-alerts at www.ocr.org.uk/updates.

Need more help?

Our team is happy to help you. You can contact them on **01223 553 998** or at general.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

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Assessment Summary comparison

GCSE Geography A: J380 (for first teaching in 2009 and last assessment in 2013)

PREVIOUS:

Unit	Assessment	Marks	Duration	Weighting
Unit A671: <i>Extreme Environments</i>	Examined	50	1 hour	25%
Unit A672: <i>You as a Global Citizen – the impact of our decisions</i>	Controlled Assessment 2 tasks (1000 words each)	50	Recommended 16 hours, not including 1 day collecting data in the field	25%
Unit A673: <i>Similarities and Differences</i>	Examined	50	1 hour	25%
Unit A674: <i>Issues in our Fast Changing World</i>	Examined Pre-release resources	50	1 hour	25%
Total		200	3 hours	100%

GCSE Geography A: J382 (for first teaching in 2012 and first assessment in 2014)

NEW:

Unit	Assessment	Marks	Duration	Weighting
Unit A731: <i>Contemporary Themes in Geography</i> Theme 1 - Extreme Environments Theme 2 - The Global Citizen Theme 3 - Similarities and Differences in Settlement and Population	Examined	100 + 12 SPaG	1 hour 45 minutes	50%
Unit A732: <i>Geographical Skills</i>	Examined	50	1 hour 15 minutes	25%
Unit A733: <i>Local Geographical Investigation</i>	Controlled Assessment 1 task (2000 words)	50	Recommended 16 hours, not including 1 day collecting data in the field	25%
Total		212	3 hours	100%

Assessment Objectives comparison

GCSE Geography A: J380 (for first teaching in 2009 and last assessment in 2013)

PREVIOUS:

Unit	% of GCSE			Total
	AO1	AO2	AO3	
Unit A671: <i>Extreme Environments</i>	13	7	5	25%
Unit A672: <i>You as a Global Citizen – the impact of our decisions</i>	7	10	8	25%
Unit A673: <i>Similarities and Differences</i>	13	7	5	25%
Unit A674: <i>Issues in our Fast Changing World</i>	0	13	12	25%
Total	33%	37%	30%	100%

GCSE Geography A: J382 (for first teaching in 2012 and first assessment in 2014)

NEW:

Unit	% of GCSE			Total
	AO1	AO2	AO3	
Unit A731: <i>Contemporary Themes in Geography</i> Theme 1 - Extreme Environments Theme 2 - The Global Citizen Theme 3 - Similarities and Differences in Settlement and Population	28	17	5	50%
Unit A732: <i>Geographical Skills</i>	0	10	15	25%
Unit A733: <i>Local Geographical Investigation</i>	5	10	10	25%
Total	33%	37%	30%	100%





SUMMARY OF KEY CHANGES

Unit A731: Contemporary Themes in Geography

In this new unit, there are three compulsory themes with content taken from the previous specification:

- Extreme Environments
- The Global Citizen
- Similarities and Differences in Settlements and Population.

Extreme Environments

- Content now forms Theme 1 content for A731 Contemporary Themes in Geography
- Content has been reviewed, with underpinning geography and level of detail to be taught made explicit.
- Polar environment has been removed. Schools must teach 'Hot Desert Environments' and 'Mountain Environments'
- Candidates continue to study one named hot desert environment and all candidates must now study one named non-UK Mountain environment
- Issue in our Fast Changing World has been integrated into this theme as 'Earthquake', where candidates study one recent earthquake event.

The Global Citizen

- Content now forms Theme 2 content for A731 Contemporary Themes in Geography
- Content has been reviewed, with underpinning geography and level of detail to be taught made explicit.
- Candidates continue to study one named product and one named service
- Issue in our Fast Changing World has been integrated into this theme as 'Energy' where candidates study one recent energy supply issue.

Similarities and Differences in Settlements and Population

- Content now forms Theme 3 content for A731 Contemporary Themes in Geography
- Content has been reviewed, with underpinning geography and level of detail to be taught made explicit.

- Candidates continue to study one named local place in the UK and one named non-UK place (which must not be in a hot desert or mountain environment)
- Issue in our Fast Changing World has been integrated into this theme as 'Population Change' where candidates study one recent issue relating to population change.

Unit A732: Geographical Skills

- Skills list has been reviewed with level of detail to be taught made explicit
- Skills continue to be taught throughout the course
- Pre-release resources have been removed and the question paper will be based on a geographical scenario with unseen resources. The question paper will include a compulsory section on OS map interpretation.

CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

- Controlled assessment has changed from two tasks of 1000 words each to one task of 2000 words, which must include the collection of primary data
- Centres can choose from a range of set task titles, the title most appropriate to their local settings and available resources. There will be two task titles available each year from the following aspects of geography: 'Issues linked to retail areas' and 'Issues linked to settlements and land-use'
- New mark scheme to use (section 4.3.4 in the specification)
- Previous content for controlled assessment unit A672 You as a Global Citizen has been moved into new unit A731 Contemporary Themes in Geography and will be examined. New content for controlled assessment unit A733 relates to the stages in completing a successful geographical investigation. The final piece of work completed by candidates can continue to be presented in a variety of formats.



SUPPORTING YOU ALL THE WAY

Free resources are available from the OCR website.

Our accredited GCSE Geography A specification is now available to download along with the specimen assessment materials:

- A731/01 Contemporary Themes in Geography (Foundation Tier)
- A731/02 Contemporary Themes in Geography (Higher Tier)
- A732/01 Geographical Skills (Foundation Tier)
- A732/02 Geographical Skills (Higher Tier)
- A733 Local Geographical Investigation

Resources available soon:

- Schemes of work and sample lesson plans for Theme 1 – Extreme Environments.
- Schemes of work and sample lesson plans for Theme 2 – The Global Citizen.
- Schemes of work and sample lesson plans for Theme 3 – Similarities and Differences in Settlements and Population.
- Curriculum planning document with additional guidance on mapping opportunities to practice skills to the content of the three themes.
- Guide to controlled assessment with additional guidance on unpacking the Assessment Objectives and interpreting the new mark scheme.
- Candidate style controlled assessment materials.
- Candidate style examination materials.