

# Qualification at a glance

## Content and assessment overview

The Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9–1) in Geography B consists of three externally-examined papers.

Students must complete all assessments in May/June in any single year.

### Component 1: Global Geographical Issues (\*Paper 1 code: 1GB0/01)

**Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes**

**37.5% of the qualification**

**94 marks**

#### Content overview

- Topic 1: Hazardous Earth
- Topic 2: Development dynamics
- Topic 3: Challenges of an urbanising world

#### Assessment overview

An externally-assessed written exam with three 30-mark sections. Of the 94 raw marks available, up to 4 marks are awarded for spelling, punctuation, grammar and use of specialist terminology<sup>1</sup>.

#### Section A: Hazardous Earth

#### Section B: Development dynamics

#### Section C: Challenges of an urbanising world

The exam includes multiple-choice questions, short open, open response and extended writing questions, calculations and 8-mark extended writing questions.

### Component 2: UK Geographical Issues (\*Paper 2 code: 1GB0/02)

**Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes**

**37.5% of the qualification**

**94 marks**

#### Content overview

- Topic 4: The UK's evolving physical landscape – including sub-topics 4A: Coastal change and conflict and 4B: River processes and pressures.
- Topic 5: The UK's evolving human landscape – including a Case Study - Dynamic UK cities.
- Topic 6: Geographical investigations – including **one** physical fieldwork investigation and **one** human fieldwork investigation linked to Topics 4 and 5.

### **Assessment overview**

An externally-assessed written exam with three sections. Of the 94 marks available up to 4 marks are awarded for spelling, punctuation, grammar and use of specialist terminology.

#### **Section A: The UK's evolving physical landscape**

#### **Section B: The UK's evolving human landscape**

#### **Section C: Geographical investigations**

- C1: Students choose **one** from two optional questions (Coastal change and conflict **or** River processes and pressures)
- C2: Students choose **one** from two- optional questions (Dynamic urban areas **or** Changing rural areas).

The exam includes multiple-choice questions, short open, open response, calculations and 8-mark extended writing questions.

### **Component 3: People and Environment Issues – Making Geographical Decisions (\*Paper 3 code: 1GB0/03)**

***Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes***

***25% of the qualification***

***64 marks***

#### **Content overview**

- Topic 7: People and the biosphere
- Topic 8: Forests under threat
- Topic 9: Consuming energy resources

### **Assessment overview**

An externally-assessed written exam with four sections. Of the 64 raw marks available, up to 4 marks are awarded for spelling, punctuation, grammar and their of specialist terminology.

#### **Section A: People and the biosphere**

#### **Section B: Forests under threat**

#### **Section C: Consuming energy resources**

#### **Section D: Making a geographical decision**

The exam includes multiple-choice questions, short open, open response and extended writing questions. Section C will include 8-mark extended writing questions and Section D will offer a choice of **one** from three decisions assessed through a 12-mark extended writing question.

\*See *Appendix 6: Codes* for a description of this code and all other codes relevant to this qualification.

# Component 1: Global Geographical Issues

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## Overview

This component draws across physical and human processes and people-environment interactions to consider key contemporary global geographical issues. The component is divided into three sections:

- Topic 1: Hazardous Earth – an understanding of the global circulation of the atmosphere and changing climate. Plus two depth studies of an extreme weather hazard (tropical cyclones) and tectonic hazards at contrasting locations.
- Topic 2: Development dynamics – an understanding of the scale of global inequality. Plus a depth study of how one emerging country is developing and the consequences for people, environment and the country's relationship with the wider world
- Topic 3: Challenges of an urbanising world – an overview of the causes and challenges of rapid urbanisation across the world. Plus one depth study of a megacity\* in a developing or emerging country.

\*See *Appendix 2: Definitions*

## Assessment information

- First assessment: May/June 2018.
- The assessment is 1 hour and 30 minutes.
- The assessment consists of three sections.
- The assessment is out of 94 marks.
- The paper will assess spelling, punctuation, grammar and use of specialist terminology which will contribute 4 marks towards the overall marks for this paper.
- Each question is set in a context.
- The exam includes multiple-choice questions, short open, open response, calculations and 8-mark extended writing questions.
- Extended writing questions will assess students' ability to develop extended written arguments and to draw well-evidenced and informed conclusions about geographical questions and issues.
- Calculators will be used in the examination.

## Sample assessment materials

A sample paper and mark scheme for this paper can be found in the *Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9–1) in Geography B Sample Assessment Materials (SAMs)* document.

## Component 2: UK Geographical Issues

### Overview

This component draws across physical and human processes and people-environment interactions to consider key contemporary geographical issues for the UK. The component is divided into three sections:

- Topic 4: The UK's evolving physical landscape - an overview of the varied physical landscapes in the UK resulting from geology, geomorphic processes and human activity over time. Plus two depth studies of distinctive landscapes – Coastal change and conflict and River processes and pressures
- Topic 5: The UK's evolving human landscape - an overview of the changing and varied human landscape of the UK, including the socio-economic and political processes that influence it. Plus a case study of a major UK city - Dynamic UK cities.
- Topic 6: Geographical investigations - two investigations, including fieldwork and research, carried out in contrasting environments, **one** from 'Coastal change and conflict' **or** 'River processes and pressures' and **one** of either 'Dynamic urban areas' **or** 'Changing rural areas'.

### Assessment information

- First assessment: May/June 2018.
- The assessment is 1 hour and 30 minutes.
- The assessment consists of four sections.
- The assessment is out of 94 marks.
- The paper will assess spelling, punctuation, grammar and use of specialist terminology which will contribute 4 marks towards the overall marks for this paper.
- Each question is set in a context.
- Students must answer **one** from two optional questions (Investigating coastal and conflict or Investigating river processes and pressures) in Section C1. Students must then answer **one** from two optional questions (Investigating dynamic urban areas or Investigating changing rural areas) in Section C2.
- The exam includes multiple-choice questions, short open, open response, calculations and 8-mark extended writing questions.
- Extended writing questions will assess students' ability to develop extended written arguments and to draw well-evidenced and informed conclusions about geographical questions and issues.
- Calculators will be used in the examination.

In the examination in any given year, students will be assessed on **at least two** of the six enquiry stages below, **across both** their investigations:

Stage in the enquiry process	Description
1	Understanding of the kinds of question capable of being investigated through fieldwork and an understanding of the geographical enquiry processes appropriate to investigate them.
2	Understanding of the range of techniques and methods used in fieldwork, including observation and different kinds of measurement.
3	Processing and presenting fieldwork data in various ways, including maps, GIS, graphs and diagrams (hand-drawn and computer-generated).
4	Analysing and explaining data collected in the field, using knowledge of relevant geographical case studies and theories.
5	Drawing evidenced conclusions and summaries from fieldwork transcripts and data.
6	Reflecting critically on fieldwork data, methods used, conclusions drawn and knowledge gained.

### Sample assessment materials

A sample paper and mark scheme for this paper can be found in the *Pearson Edexcel Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9–1) in Geography A Sample Assessment Materials (SAMs)* document.

## Component 3: People and Environment Issues – Making Geographical Decisions

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### Overview

In this component, students will develop their knowledge and understanding of the processes and interactions between people and environment and investigate related issues at a variety of scales.

This component has three sections:

- Topic 7: People and the biosphere – an overview of the global distribution and characteristics of large-scale ecosystems, why the biosphere is important to human wellbeing and how humans use and modify it in order to obtain resources
- Topic 8: Forests under threat – a detailed study of tropical rainforests and the taiga, looking at processes and interactions and issues related to their biodiversity and to their sustainable use and management
- Topic 9: Consuming energy resources – a study of renewable and non-renewable energy, its supply and demand, access and energy security issues, its sustainable use and management
- The content and concepts from topics 7, 8 and 9 should be taught through a range of contexts.

### Characteristics of the geographical decision-making process

The examination will consist of a booklet of sources, provided in the examination, that exemplify a geographical issue drawing from Topics 7, 8 and 9 and underpinning conceptual knowledge from Components 1 and 2. It requires students to make effective use of, analyse and interpret the resource material provided in the examination. The final 12-mark question requires students to consider physical and human geography together, draw on information in the booklet of sources, and make reasoned justifications for proposed solutions in terms of their likely impact on both people and environment.

### Assessment information

- First assessment: May/June 2018.
- The assessment is 1 hour and 30 minutes.
- The assessment is out of 64 marks.
- The paper will assess spelling, punctuation, grammar and use of specialist terminology which will contribute 4 marks towards the overall marks for this paper.
- Each section explores an aspect of a geographical issue leading to the final decision making question related to the issue.
- The exam includes multiple-choice question and will include short open, open response and extended writing questions. Section C will include 6-mark extended writing questions and Section D will offer a choice of one from three decisions assessed by a 12-mark extended writing question.
- Extended writing questions will assess students' ability to develop extended written arguments and to draw well-evidenced and informed conclusions about geographical questions and issues.
- Calculators will be used in the examination.