



Dear Parent/Carer

Geography GCSE and A level Changes for Summer 2021 Examinations

Due to disruption in Terms 4 - 6 last year and the potential for further public health safeguards, Ofqual have made some changes to the requirements for GCSE and A-Level Geography for the Summer 2021 examinations. Although Ofqual informed us of the changes on 3 August 2020, we are waiting for AQA, our exam board, to confirm the changes. If any further changes are made by AQA, we will let you know.

GCSE

Paper 1 and paper 2 will be unchanged however, Ofqual have made the decision to remove the fieldwork element within paper 3. This means the usual trip we have planned to visit Bristol and assess the success of regeneration within the city will not be running this year. Paper 3 will include the issue evaluation section which is based on the pre-release material that AQA send to schools around the middle of March and, possibly the unfamiliar fieldwork section. We are waiting to hear whether the unfamiliar fieldwork section will be included or not.

A Level

Paper 1 and paper 2 will be unchanged and, students will still be expected to complete the Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) which makes up component 3 of their A level. AQA are still expecting **some** primary data to be collected (data which the pupil has collected themselves) but, understand that schools cannot run field trips at the moment so are allowing more local investigations to take place. Students are allowed to collect data as local as the school grounds. Ofqual are also allowing pupils to use more secondary data in their NEA (data that has already been collected by someone else). Below is a statement released by AQA regarding the NEA.

'The final choice of title, question or issue being investigated must still be made by the student. Each student should be independently making decisions around their own data collection methodologies although students may work together in collecting primary data if their investigation topics are similar. Secondary data should be sourced individually. The focus of study remains local. Broad or large-scale research "projects" would not be appropriate.'

We will be setting the deadlines for NEAs soon so pupils know well in advance when they will be due in. We are waiting to hear when the 2021 exams will be in order to set a deadline for students to complete their NEA.

Yours sincerely

K Pearce
Subject Leader for Geography