

# CHANGES FROM NOVEMBER 2021 ONWARDS

We would like to remind you about an update to the International GCSE Geography (9230) specification.

We made changes earlier in the year to simplify the structure and improve the clarity of the specification. We also introduced an amended assessment structure for Paper 3. These changes were due to come in to effect for the May/June 2021 exam series. However, since exams were cancelled in May/June 2021, the effects of the changes outlined below will first be seen in the November 2021 exam series.

We listened to feedback from our teachers that suggested that we could make the fieldwork requirements for this subject easier to deliver to students, if we made some changes to our assessment. We have also taken the opportunity to improve the clarity of the fieldwork requirements and details of how it is assessed in the specification.

Please be assured that there are **no** changes to the fieldwork requirements.

## WHAT ARE THE CHANGES TO PAPER 3?

From June 2021, Paper 3 (Geographical and Fieldwork skills) will be broken down into three sections rather than two:

- Section A: Geographical skills
- Section B: Fieldwork skills (unfamiliar contexts)
- Section C: Individual fieldwork enquiry.

This will help students to understand where their geographical skills, fieldwork skills in unfamiliar contexts and their individual fieldwork enquiry are being assessed in this paper. The paper has been renamed 'Geographical and Fieldwork skills' to reflect this change.

The total mark for Paper 3 will be reduced to 60 marks. This means the paper will contribute slightly less to the overall assessment, giving slightly more weight to the longer Papers 1 and 2.

- Paper 1: Living with the physical environment - 36%
- Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment - 36%
- Paper 3: Geographical and Fieldwork skills - 28%

Papers 1 and 2 have **not** changed and geographical skills will still be tested across all three exam papers.

The updated specification and specimen paper can be found on our website, as well as an updated Switching Guide, Scheme of work and Teacher Guidance Document.

## HELP AND SUPPORT

If you have a question about this update you can ask an OxfordAQA Geography expert directly by completing [this form](#) or emailing [examsadmin@oxfordaqaexams.org.uk](mailto:examsadmin@oxfordaqaexams.org.uk)

If you and your department would benefit from talking to one of our senior examiners, please contact your Qualifications Consultant who can arrange a phone call.



**OXFORD INTERNATIONAL AQA EXAMINATIONS**  
GREAT CLARENDON STREET, OXFORD, OX2 6DP  
UNITED KINGDOM  
[oxfordaqaexams.org.uk](http://oxfordaqaexams.org.uk)