

## GCE Geography bulletin, April 2018

Welcome back from the Easter break. I hope you find this newsletter useful as you plan for the upcoming examinations and the remainder of this academic year. As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch!

Erin

### INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION SUBMISSIONS

Thank you to all for your efforts to submit sample investigations to moderators by 23<sup>rd</sup> of March. Before the end of this term, via the secure website, each centre will receive detailed feedback on your internally assessed marks. General Principal Moderator feedback will be included in the final Examiner Reports published in August. We hope that this feedback will be constructive and useful to you in order to plan the administration of the NEA for 2018 -19.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of a few of the very important requirements of this task. These should be emphasised to your students before they embark on their data collection:

- All titles and research questions should be rooted **within the specification content**, e.g. hydrological studies could look at temporal variations in discharge (2.1.3) or studies of flows or stores within a drainage basin (2.1.4). The links to the specification should be **clearly identified on the student proposal form** and this form completed in detail. It is the teacher's responsibility to discuss titles with candidates to ensure that they are on a secure path. Please refer to the [exemplars and guidance](#) provided on the website. Where a centre is uncertain of the suitability of a particular title, please use the **Title Advice Service** that we offer.
- Students should be **strongly discouraged** from exceeding the 4,000 word JCQ guidance on word length. Investigations should be concise and focussed throughout, as suggested by the mark scheme. Centres will receive feedback on word length and should modify their approach, where necessary, in 2019.
- Each individual candidate should complete their proposal form independently **before** collecting any data. Group data collection (pairs or small groups) is allowed but decisions on which data to collect and the methodologies used must be made by the candidates themselves. Please remember that it is inappropriate for a large class to collect data as a single group.

**2019** Independent Investigation samples will need to be submitted by **Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> of March**.

### PREPARING FOR THE EXAMINATIONS

As we move towards the examinations in May and June, there are certain points that are worth emphasising regarding assessment and the availability of new resources to support you.

1. Bear in mind that different command words relate to different Assessment Objectives (AO). Where questions assess **more than one** AO but are weighted towards AO2 (application of knowledge and understanding), they will carry one of four commands – 'Discuss', 'Evaluate', 'To what extent...' or 'Justify'. These commands provide the most significant stretch and challenge for candidates and require a written debate

that comes to a clear conclusion. This is relevant to all extended response questions in Component 2 and Component 3. Refer to the '**Assessment Guidance for Teachers**' PowerPoint in the 'Training Materials' section of the GCE Geography website for further guidance. The same presentation can also be found on the GCE Geography page of the Digital Resources website [resources.eduqas.co.uk](https://resources.eduqas.co.uk).

2. All five **Student Guides** are now available for purchase through the Hodder website. These provide amplification of the content in the specification as well as an exemplar Q and A section.
3. A selection of **marked student responses** to the SAMs questions for C1, C2 and C3 are available for you on the website. Search under 'All Course Materials'/'Resources for Teachers'. Refer also to the further guidance on writing C3 essays under this heading.
4. A selection of extra **revision questions and mark schemes** for C1, C2 and C3 have also been published on the website. Search under 'All Course Materials'/'Resources for Teachers'. We very much hope that they assist your preparation.

## KEY DATES FOR SUMMER 2018

C1 AS Examination	15 <sup>th</sup> May PM	C2 A level Examination	8 <sup>th</sup> June PM
C2 AS Examination	24 <sup>th</sup> May AM	C3 A level Examination	14 <sup>th</sup> June PM
C1 A level Examination	4 <sup>th</sup> June AM	Results Day	16 <sup>th</sup> August

## JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP

Our Facebook group continues to prove very popular and is a place for teachers to share resources, advice, and subject-related news to help fellow group members. I post updates as regularly as I can to keep members aware of latest developments. It now has nearly 500 active members sharing ideas and resources. Thanks to all who contribute and who work hard to share the fruits of their labours here!

A breakdown of some of the most useful and relevant links that have appeared on the website since September can be viewed on the open website in the 'Facebook Group – Teacher Network' section under the 'All Course Materials' tab on the homepage. [Join here](#)

## NEXT BULLETIN

The next bulletin will be sent out in September. This will contain full details of the CPD cycle for 2018-19. I'll look forward to seeing you at one of our training events later in the year.

In the meantime, may I take this opportunity to wish AS and A level candidates every success during the forthcoming examination series and to wish all teachers a pleasant summer break when it finally arrives.

Erin

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