

Guidance on co-teaching

This resource guides you through some of the ways that you can co-teach our AS and A-level Geography specifications (7036, 7037). The new A-levels have been decoupled from AS and so AS results do not count towards the A-level results.

We have designed the structure and content of the AS and A-level specifications to facilitate co-teaching where appropriate. For more information on decoupling and co-teaching, [read about what the changes to A-levels mean for you](#). The table below summarises the (numerous) combinations of topics that allow the co-teachability of the AS and A-level courses. Therefore AS and A-level courses can be structured to suit the needs of individual departments. The AS in Geography can be co-taught with the first year of the A-level, from September to June.

	One year course	Two year course	
AS	✓		AS over one year
A-level		✓	A-level over two years - teachers structure the first year in their own way

Benefits of our flexible specifications

- The linear A-level allows time to develop skills and explore ideas, techniques and processes in more depth.
- Opportunities for independent study and research.
- Freedom to select from a range of different optional topics for AS and A-level study.
- Teachers can structure courses that utilise the knowledge, expertise and resources available in their departments.
- Teachers can structure courses that respond to the interests and needs of their students.
- Enables students to make informed choices for year 13 and beyond.
- Many opportunities for stretch and challenge.

Co-teaching pathways

Below is an example of co-teaching the AS and A-level specifications. It is neither prescriptive nor exhaustive. Courses can be structured in a way that suits you and your students.

In year one centres can deliver the 2 topics required for AS paper 1, the 1 topic required for AS paper 2 and complete a fieldwork investigation, leaving the remaining topics for A-level to be delivered in year 2. During the second year students will need to revisit topics to consolidate earlier learning.

AS content and assessment	A-level content and assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three optional topics in Physical geography two optional topics in the people and the environment section. <p>Plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human geography compulsory topic (Changing places). • Geography fieldwork investigation and geographical skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One compulsory topic, three optional topics in Section B and two optional topics in Section C- Physical geography. <p>Plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two compulsory topics and one optional topic in Human geography. • Geographical investigation. <p>If co-teaching AS and A-level, then 3 of the topics will have been delivered in the first year.</p>
<p>The AS level is assessed by two 1.5 hour exams, the content of both contains optional topics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Component 1 – Physical geography and people and the environment. • Component 2 – Human geography and Geography fieldwork investigation and geographical skills. 	<p>The A-level is assessed by two x 2.5 hour exams and a 3,000-4,000 word non-examined component.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Component 1 – Physical geography. • Component 2 – Human geography. • Component 3 – Geographical investigation.

Teaching AS and A-level Geography

The table below shows that there are 4 combinations of topics that can be delivered in a way that still allows AS and A-level to be co-teachable. It also indicates that there are a number of topics that are only delivered on the A-level

course so would have to be delivered in Year 2 if co-teaching AS and A-level. These include:

- Global systems and global governance
- Hot desert systems and landscapes
- Ecosystems under stress
- Population and the environment
- Resource security.

The AS and A-level Geography courses both contain a Geographical skills checklist. These skills checklists are broadly the same.

The assessment objectives and weighting for AS and A-level Geography as prescribed by Ofqual are included below:

Assessment objective	Objective	Weighting (A-level)	Weighting (AS)
A01	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of places, environments, concepts, processes, interactions and change, at a variety of scales.	30-40%	30-40%
A02	Apply knowledge and understanding in different contexts to analyse, interpret and evaluate geographical information and issues.	30-40%	30-40%
A03	Use a variety of relevant quantitative, qualitative and fieldwork skills to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investigate geographical questions and issues • interpret, analyse and evaluate data and evidence • construct arguments and draw conclusions. 	20-30%	20-30%

Combination	Year	Level	Winter	Spring	Summer	Complete during study of the course
1	1	AS and A-level	Water and carbon cycles	Hazards	Changing Places	Geographical fieldwork investigation
	2	A-level	Glaciated systems and Landscapes or Coastal systems and landscapes or Hot desert systems and landscapes	Global systems and global governance	Population and the environment or Contemporary urban environments or Resource security	Geographical investigation and geographical skills
2	1	AS and A-level	Water and carbon cycles	Contemporary urban environments	Changing Places	Geographical fieldwork investigation and geographical skills
	2	A-level	Glaciated systems and Landscapes or Coastal systems and landscapes or Hot desert systems and landscapes	Global systems and global governance	Hazards or Ecosystems under stress	Geographical investigation and geographical skills
3	1	AS and A-level	Glaciated systems and Landscapes or Coastal systems and landscapes	Hazards	Changing Places	Geographical fieldwork investigation and geographical skills

	2	A-level	Water and carbon cycles	Global systems and global governance	Contemporary urban environments or Population and the environment or Resource security	Geographical investigation and geographical skills
4	1	AS and A-level	Glaciated systems and Landscapes or Coastal systems and landscapes	Contemporary urban environments	Changing Places	Geographical fieldwork investigation and geographical skills
	2	A-level	Water and carbon cycles	Global systems and global governance	Hazards or Ecosystems under stress	Geographical investigation and geographical skills

Additional Guidance

Content for winter, spring and the first half of the summer term of Year 1 is identical for the AS and A-level courses.

Differentiation will need to reflect those candidates who are completing the full 2 year A-level as oppose to those who may complete their studies at the end of Year 1, as the AS and A-level exam papers require different levels of skills, knowledge and understanding. Differentiation is achieved by the use of learning activities in which:

- the majority of A03 is delivered differently for AS and A-level students as the AS students will be assessed by exam whilst the A-level students by non-examined assessment
- the activities are varied by presenting more complex materials and/or more complex tasks
- fieldwork/geographical investigation techniques differ in demand to allow A-level students the scope to complete the non-exam assessment to the required detail.

For co-teaching to be effective there also needs to be differentiation in terms of assessment/marking of work.

Geographical enquiry/fieldwork could be introduced in the remainder of the summer term for A-level students, but AS students must have completed their fieldwork prior to this. AS and A-level students could experience the same fieldwork in year one, but AS students will be examined on their experience whilst A-level students will have to complete the non-examined assessment, which could be completed during the remainder of the summer term.