



Qualifications and
Curriculum Authority



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government



Rewarding Learning

GCE A level performance descriptions for geography

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Introduction

Performance descriptions have been created for all GCE subjects. They describe the learning outcomes and levels of attainment likely to be demonstrated by a representative candidate performing at the A/B and E/U boundaries for AS and A2.

In practice most candidates will show uneven profiles across the attainments listed, with strengths in some areas compensating in the award process for weaknesses or omissions elsewhere. Performance descriptions illustrate expectations at the A/B and E/U boundaries of the AS and A2 as a whole; they have not been written at unit level.

Grade A/B and E/U boundaries should be set using professional judgement. The judgement should reflect the quality of candidates' work, informed by the available technical and statistical evidence. Performance descriptions are designed to assist examiners in exercising their professional judgement. They should be interpreted and applied in the context of individual specifications and their associated units. However, performance descriptions are not designed to define the content of specifications and units.

The requirement for all AS and A level specifications to assess candidates' quality of written communication will be met through one or more of the assessment objectives.

The performance descriptions have been produced by the regulatory authorities in collaboration with the awarding bodies.

AS performance descriptions for geography

	Assessment objective 1	Assessment objective 2	Assessment objective 3
Assessment objectives	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the content, concepts and processes.	Analyse, interpret and evaluate geographical information, issues and viewpoints and apply understanding in unfamiliar contexts.	Select and use a variety of methods, skills and techniques (including the use of new technologies) to investigate questions and issues, reach conclusions and communicate findings.
A/B boundary performance descriptions	Candidates characteristically: a) demonstrate detailed knowledge and understanding of a range of concepts and processes b) demonstrate detailed knowledge and understanding of subject-specific material.	Candidates characteristically: a) analyse and interpret geographical information, issues and viewpoints b) offer a valid evaluation of geographical information, issues and viewpoints c) demonstrate the ability to apply geographical understanding to unfamiliar contexts at different scales.	Candidates characteristically: a) select and use appropriately a range of methods, skills and techniques (including new technologies) when investigating questions and issues b) reach valid conclusions and communicate findings clearly in a structured manner appropriate to the task.
E/U boundary performance descriptions	Candidates characteristically: a) demonstrate some knowledge and understanding of some concepts and processes b) show basic knowledge and understanding of subject-specific material.	Candidates characteristically: a) offer limited and inconsistent analysis and interpretation of geographical information, issues and viewpoints b) attempt some limited evaluation of geographical information, issues and viewpoints c) show some limited ability to apply aspects of geographical understanding to unfamiliar contexts.	Candidates characteristically: a) use a limited range of methods, skills and techniques (which may include new technologies) to attempt to investigate questions and issues b) draw some limited conclusions c) communicate findings which broadly address the tasks.

A2 performance descriptions for geography

	Assessment objective 1	Assessment objective 2	Assessment objective 3
Assessment objectives	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the content, concepts and processes.	Analyse, interpret and evaluate geographical information, issues and viewpoints and apply understanding in unfamiliar contexts.	Select and use a variety of methods, skills and techniques (including the use of new technologies) to investigate questions and issues, reach conclusions and communicate findings.
A/B boundary performance descriptions	Candidates characteristically: a) demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a wide range of concepts and processes b) show thorough knowledge and understanding of subject -specific material.	Candidates characteristically: a) accurately and competently analyse and interpret geographical information, issues and viewpoints b) offer a thorough evaluation of geographical information, issues and viewpoints in relation to specific geographical concepts c) demonstrate the ability to apply accurate and appropriate geographical understanding to unfamiliar contexts with precision at a range of scales.	Candidates characteristically: a) select and use appropriately and accurately a wide range of methods, skills and techniques (including new technologies) when thoroughly investigating questions and issues b) reach substantiated and valid conclusions c) communicate findings accurately and appropriately to the task.
E/U boundary performance descriptions	Candidates characteristically: a) demonstrate some knowledge and understanding of the main concepts and processes b) show some understanding of subject-specific material.	Candidates characteristically: a) show some attempts to analyse and interpret geographical information, issues and viewpoints with varying degrees of success b) offer some evaluation of geographical information, issues and viewpoints with variable success c) show some ability to apply geographical understanding to unfamiliar contexts with some degree of accuracy.	Candidates characteristically: a) use a range of methods, skills and techniques (which include new technologies) to investigate questions and issues with varying degrees of success. b) draw some straightforward conclusions c) communicate findings broadly appropriate to the task.