

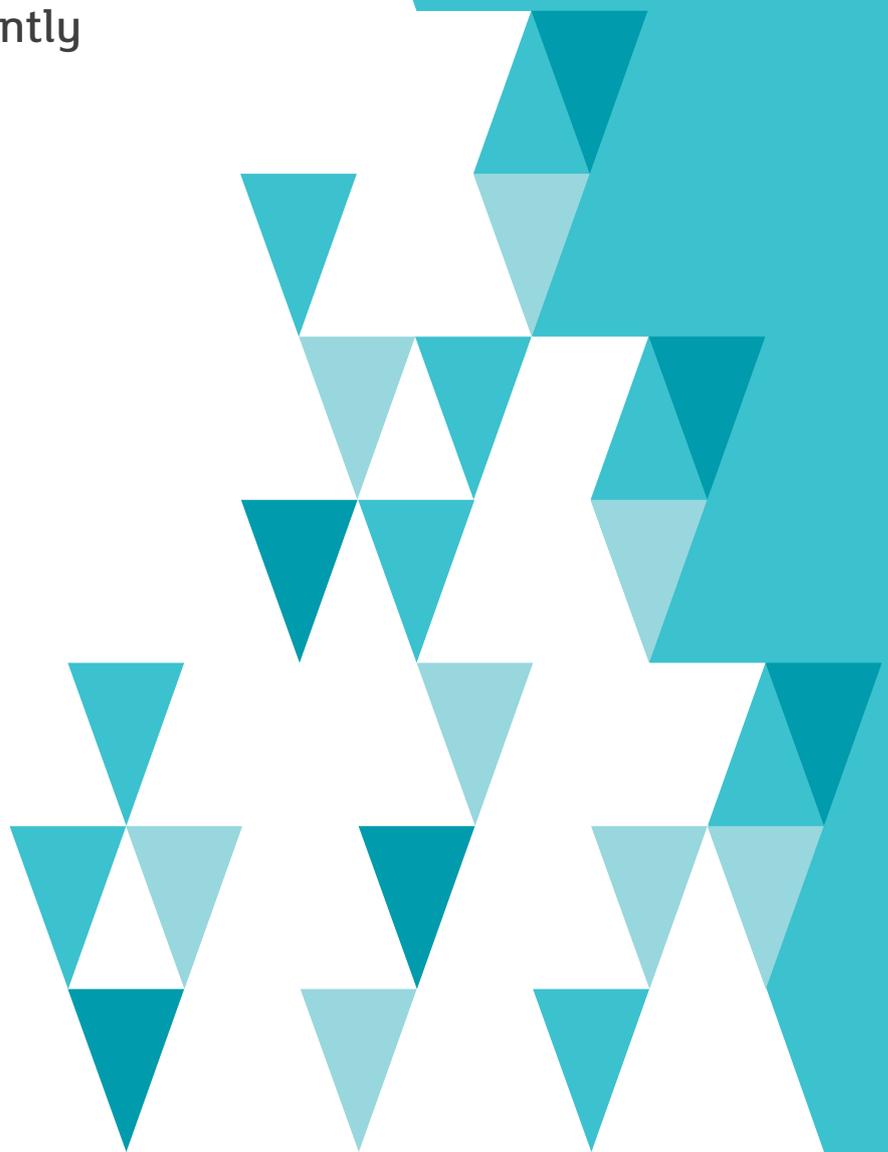
GCSE



CCEA GCSE Revised
Geography

Guidance for centres

Unit 3: Fieldwork - frequently
asked questions



Frequently asked questions

1. Selecting the theme/topic for investigation

- *Will CCEA continue to publish fieldwork titles each year?*

No, we will no longer publish a list of fieldwork titles.

- *Will we be required to base our fieldwork on a set title?*

No, centres will be free to choose the title/theme for their fieldwork investigation.

- *Please give me some guidance on formulating appropriate hypotheses.*

An hypothesis is a statement that can be tested using research. Teachers should set the complexity of the hypotheses in line with the ability of their candidates.

- *How many hypotheses should we use in the fieldwork investigation?*

The fieldwork investigation must be based on a minimum of two appropriate hypotheses.

2. Completing fieldwork

- *In my centre, we intend to do a river study. How many sites should we use for data collection?*

In a river based fieldwork investigation, a minimum of five sites should be used for data collection.

- *Are students required to use both primary and secondary data in their investigation?*

Students must collect relevant geographical data first-hand through fieldwork. Secondary data may also be used if appropriate.

- *How much time should be spent in the field collecting data?*

As a general guide, students should spend up to 6 hours collecting raw data in the field.

- *The specification requires students to use at least one secondary source during the fieldwork investigation. Please give me some guidance on the type of secondary source that can be used.*

A wide range of secondary sources may be used, for example: maps such as OS maps; text books; data from published sources such as census data or weather date; data from unpublished sources such as data collected at an earlier period of time that is being used for comparative purposes.

3. Assessing Unit 3 Fieldwork

- *When can students take the Unit 3 examination?*

The first assessment of Unit 3 will be Summer 2019. The Unit 3 examination will be available each summer thereafter.

- *Can my candidates take the Unit 3 examination at the end of Year 11?*

From 2019 onwards, students can enter Unit 3 in either Year 11 or Year 12.

- *What format will the exam take?*

Assessment is a 1 hour written examination. Candidates answer all questions. The questions will be generic in nature to facilitate a range of fieldwork context. The questions will draw on candidate's knowledge and experience of the fieldwork skills detailed in Section 3.6 of the specification.

- *Will quality of written communication be assessed in Unit 3?*

Yes, quality of written communication will be assessed in at least one question that requires extended writing.

- *Can a candidate re-sit Unit 3?*

Candidates may resit Unit 3 once before cash-in.

- *If a candidate resits Unit 3 will the better mark count towards their GCSE Geography grade?*

The better of the two results will count towards the final GCSE grade unless a unit is required to meet the 40% terminal rule. If it is, the more recent mark will count (whether or not it is the better result).

4. The Fieldwork Statement and Table of Data

- *Do students need to complete a fieldwork report?*

There is no requirement for students to complete a fieldwork report.

- *What should be included in the fieldwork statement?*

The fieldwork statement must include:

- A title;
- A statement of the aim and hypotheses that the candidate is testing; and
- Details of the location of the study.

- *Should students include a map with their fieldwork statement?*

A map of the study area may be included with the fieldwork statement.

- *If a candidate decides to include a map with their fieldwork statement, must it be generated using GIS?*

The map can be GIS generated or hand-drawn. Students are required to use a variety of maps, including those generated by geographic information systems (GIS). Creating a map to include with the fieldwork statement provides an opportunity to develop map skills.

- *What should the table of data include?*

The table of data should include:

- Primary data collected in the field for all variables relevant to the proposed aim of the study
- Normal conventions - a specific title and all variables clearly stated along with precise units of measurement.

- *Does each student need to create an original fieldwork statement and table of data?*

No, the fieldwork statement and table of data may be centre produced. We expect that all candidates will complete the same fieldwork investigation. Therefore, it is reasonable to expect that the title, aim, hypotheses, location and data collected will be the same for all candidates in a centre.

- *Are students required to generate the fieldwork statement and table of data using ICT?*

We expect students to use ICT for the presentation of both the fieldwork statement and table of data.

- *Can students include additional information in their fieldwork statement if they wish?*

Candidates must not include any information in their fieldwork statement relating to theory, methodology, data analysis, interpretation, conclusions or evaluation.

We strongly advise centres to check that each candidate's fieldwork statement complies with the requirements of the specification, before submission to the Examinations Officer.

- *How is the fieldwork statement and the table of data assessed?*

We do not award marks for either the fieldwork statement or the table of data.

- *Do my students simply take the fieldwork statement and table of data into the exam with them?*

A completed cover sheet must accompany each candidate's fieldwork statement and table of data.

Centres must collect the fieldwork statement and table of data from candidates prior to the date of the examination. They should be held securely by the Examinations Officer and given to the Invigilator to be issued to candidates along with the examination paper.

Candidates submit their fieldwork statement and table of data with their Unit 3 question and answer booklet.

- *What information is required on the cover sheet?*

The cover sheet must show the centre number, candidate number and the number of pages attached (including the cover sheet). Both candidate and teacher must sign the cover sheet.

5. Guidance and support

- *What guidance is available to help me plan the delivery of Unit 3?*

You can find the requirements for Unit 3 Fieldwork in Section 3.6 of the specification. Please note that the online version of the specification will always be the most up-to-date; to view and download this please go to: www.ccea.org.uk/geography.

In addition to this document, you might find the following documents useful:

- Unit 3: Fieldwork – the geographical enquiry process
- Unit 3 Fieldwork – the enquiry approach to Geography fieldwork
- GCSE Geography Unit 3: the fieldwork statement and table of data
- Specimen Assessment Materials: Unit 3 specimen paper and mark scheme