

# AQA A 9030: Geography GCSE exam paper overview

**Paper 1 - This is the Physical Geography paper.** The exam paper has sections in it that you have not studied and not expected to answer! There are 7 sections printed in the exam paper but you must **only answer the 3 sections** you have studied in class! Find these sections, put a tick next to question number and do not even look at the others. They are:

**Section A1. Restless Earth**

**Section B5. Water on the Land**

**Section B7: Coastal Zone**

---

**Paper 2 - This is the Human Geography paper.** This exam has an additional 9 marks added for the assessment of SPG. The exam paper has sections in it that you have not studied! There are 6 sections printed in the exam paper but you must **only answer the 3 sections** you have studied in class! Find these sections and do not even look at the others. They are:

**Section A1. Changing Population**

**Section B4. Development Gap**

**Section B6. Tourism**

---

**General Geography exam advice:** Do not answer the sections that you have not studied!

Both exams are 90 minutes long in total\*. Therefore you should **spend 30 minutes on each section.**

Manage your time wisely and be careful to have enough time for the longest answer (highest mark weighting) questions. This is especially important on the Human paper where these questions are marked for SPG! For long answer questions, **try using the 'one-line sacrifice technique' and write a mini plan!** Do not attempt to write an extended answer without planning it! Plan the themes of your paragraphs and integrate case studies if appropriate to support your point.

**Spend a couple of minutes reading and thinking** about all the questions from the section before you start writing – therefore you are writing for about 25 minutes per section. The rule to go by is **1 mark a minute.**

**Read each question thoroughly** (at least twice) to clarify exactly what it is you are being asked. Underline **key words** (the geography within the question) and **command words** (the instructions about how to write your answer) of the question – it will focus your writing!

There will be some diagrams in your exam paper, and some in an additional booklet. Study them carefully. Essentially, if they have given you a 'Figure' – e.g. map, diagram, photo etc., then the answers are in there somewhere!

Check your paper thoroughly when you've finished - make sure you've not missed any little questions! Finally, you can be expected to graph data, draw diagrams and label features in some questions so be sure to check. Read every word of every question you answer.

Past papers downloadable from <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-a-9030/past-papers-and-mark-schemes>

\*Unless you have extra time allocated