

## Pearson response to the Ofqual Consultation

### GCSE Reform: Regulations for Geography

January 2015

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#### Pearson information

<b>Name</b>	Lesley Davies
<b>Position</b>	Vice President, Quality, Standards & Research
<b>Name of organisation or group</b>	Pearson
<b>Address</b>	Pearson 190 High Holborn London WC1V 7BH
<b>Email</b>	lesley.davies@pearson.com
<b>Telephone number</b>	020 7190 4292

**Would you like us to treat your response as confidential? If you answer Yes we will not include your details in any list of people or organisations that responded to the consultation.**

No

**Are the views expressed in response to this consultation your personal views or an official response from the organisation you represent?**

Official response, awarding organisation

**Nation**

England

**How did you find out about this consultation?**

From our website

**May we contact you for more information?**

Yes

**Consultation questions****Question 1**

Do you have any comments on the draft Conditions for new GCSE geography?

( ) Yes (**X**) No

If yes, please provide them here:

**Question 2**

Do you have any comments on the draft Guidance on subject content for new GCSE geography?

(**X**) Yes ( ) No

If yes, please provide them here:

It is not currently clear from the subject content document whether awarding organisations are expected to assess students on both fieldwork environments or one and this has not been confirmed in the Guidance document. Confirmation of whether one or two fieldwork environments are expected to be assessed is required in order to achieve comparability across awarding organisations.

**Question 3**

Do you have any comments on the requirements surrounding the weighting of mathematical and statistical techniques, or the requirements surrounding the use of spelling, punctuation and grammar?

(**X**) Yes ( ) No

If yes, please provide them here:

With reference to page 14, paragraphs (c) and (d), Pearson recommends that the 10 per cent of marks allocated to the assessment of mathematical and statistical techniques should be targeted in assessment objective 3 and assessment objective 4 only. The wording of assessment objective 1 and 2 prevents the direct targeting of mathematical and statistical techniques because of the focus on subject content in assessment objective 1 and of concepts and inter-relationships in assessment objective 2. In addition, the targeting of mathematical and statistical skills via assessment objective 3 and assessment objective 4 would help to ensure comparability of assessment demand across awarding organisations.

**Question 4**

Do you have any comments on the draft Guidance on assessment objectives for new GCSE geography?

( ) Yes (X) No

If yes, please provide them here:

**Question 5**

We have not identified any ways in which the proposed requirements for reformed GCSEs in geography would impact (positively or negatively) on persons who share a protected characteristic. Are there any potential impacts we have not identified? If so, what are they?

( ) Yes (X) No

If yes, please provide them here:

**Question 6**

Are there any additional steps we could take to mitigate any negative impact resulting from these proposals on persons who share a protected characteristic? If so, please comment on the additional steps we could take to mitigate negative impacts.

( ) Yes (X) No

If yes, please provide them here:

**Question 7**

Have you any other comments on the impacts of the proposals on persons who share a protected characteristic?

( ) Yes (X) No

If yes, please provide them here:

**General questions**

**We want to write clearly, directly and put the reader first. Overall, do you think we have got this right in this consultation?**

Yes

**Do you have any special requirements to enable you to read our consultations? (For example screen reader, large text, and so on)**

No

**Which of the following document formats would you prefer to use when reading our consultations? (Select all that apply)**

A standard PDF

**How many of our consultations have you read in the last 12 months?**

More than 5