

CAMBRIDGE IGCSE

Geography 0460

Assessment Overview

Examinations 2027, 2028 and 2029

How the qualification is assessed

The table shows the papers and components described for this syllabus. Some rows are alternatives: use the route explanation above to identify your required combination. A component's raw mark is the total available on that assessment; its weighting is the share of the qualification result, which may differ from its share of raw marks.

Paper or component	Duration	Raw marks	Weighting	Question or task structure
1: Physical Geography	1 h 45 min	75	36%	Section A compulsory; two of three questions in B
2: Human Geography	1 h 45 min	75	36%	Section A compulsory; two of three questions in B
3: Coursework	During the course	60	28%	Fieldwork investigation of 1800-2200 words; alternative to 4
4: Geographical Investigations	1 h 30 min	60	28%	Two compulsory written questions; alternative to 3

Read the weighting against your qualification route. A longer paper or a larger raw-mark total does not automatically mean a greater final weighting. Prepare for every component that applies to you, including practical, oral or coursework requirements where specified.

What each component requires

All candidates take three components.

Paper 1, Physical Geography, lasts one hour and forty-five minutes, carries seventy-five marks and contributes thirty-six per cent. Section A contains one compulsory structured question. In Section B, you answer two questions from a choice of three. Questions include short answers, source-based tasks and extended responses.

Paper 2, Human Geography, follows the same format, duration, marks and weighting, but assesses the five human-geography topics.

For the remaining twenty-eight per cent, candidates take either Component 3 or Paper 4.

Component 3 is a centre-based fieldwork assignment of between eighteen hundred and twenty-two hundred words. It is worth sixty marks, internally assessed and externally moderated. The investigation follows the

geographical-enquiry process, from forming a question or hypothesis through data collection, analysis, conclusion and evaluation.

Paper 4, Geographical Investigations, is a ninety-minute written alternative worth sixty marks. It contains two compulsory questions testing fieldwork methods, data processing, analysis, conclusions and evaluation. Practical fieldwork experience remains valuable preparation, even when taking this written route.

The qualification is graded from A star to G.

Preparing the right kind of response

Interpret the actual map, photograph, graph or data provided. Use accurate place evidence to support explanations, and distinguish causes, effects and responses. In fieldwork questions, connect the method and sampling decisions with the question being investigated and the reliability of the conclusion.

The assessment objectives are visible in the response itself: relevant knowledge, appropriate use of the stimulus or task, a clear method or explanation, and a conclusion where requested. The command word and mark allocation help show the depth required. An answer should respond to the actual question, not reproduce a memorised passage that only partly fits.

Timing and examination arrangements

Begin preparation with accurate, untimed work, then move towards the duration and conditions of your required component. Use mark allocations to guide pacing while allowing time to read instructions and check the response. Any practice pacing advice is study guidance, not a new Cambridge time rule.

Examinations are available in June and November, with an additional March series in India. Private candidates may enter, but some components are unavailable to them, so they should confirm the correct assessment route with their examination centre.

An approved examination centre confirms entries, available component options, deadlines and any practical or speaking arrangements. Preparation-course access does not itself constitute an examination entry. The 2027-2029 syllabus separates Physical Geography and Human Geography into Papers 1 and 2. Older arrangements using a combined themes paper and a skills paper do not describe this route. Private candidates should confirm the Paper 4 route with their centre.

Key pointers: Know your required components, follow question choices precisely and practise the relevant response formats. **Next:** Open **Learning Resources** to see which materials support this preparation.