

# Reflections from Edexcel Spec B GCSE Network event

Andrea Wood led the November 2022 webinar presenting on key trends and findings from the summer 2022 exam series.

This document is a reflection and forms summary guidance created by the HIAS geography advisor considering the 2-hour webinar and examiners report.

## Overall reflections from 2022 examinations:

- Increased confidence in extended writing seen across all papers compared to 2018-2019
- Calculation questions were completed well especially mean/mode
- Clearer understanding of the command words shown
- The range and depth of specification coverage was strong
- Paper 3 demonstrated successful use of the resource booklet
- Students struggled more with the physical geography in Paper 2
- Assess/Evaluate questions were challenging for students
- Concepts of landscape were poorly understood by many
- Some students did not attempt 8-mark assess questions
- Knowledge of some specific terms in the specification such as site, situation, secondary data were not well understood

## Recommendations to support preparation for 2023:

### 1. Key terminology

Ensure all the key terms from the detailed content of the specification are taught as they will be used in questions for example site and situation. Making use of texts such as textbooks, revision guides and reading sources with these terms is important so that students read and see these words frequently. Use of the Frayer model, dual coding and low-stakes quizzing using mini-wipe boards are examples of strategies to support and further examples can be found in the subject specific pedagogy area of the Open Moodle as well as the Literacy course.

### 2. Maths for Geography

The maths for geography guide on the specification website is a useful resource to help ensure students are aware of the range of maths activities they could be asked to complete. Calculating percentages was the weakest aspect of skill in the 2022 series and working through examples using the visualiser was recommended to address this.

### 3. UK Distinctive landscapes

Knowledge of the general relief of the UK is vital to support students in knowing the variation in UK landscapes. Using images and maps to pick apart and annotate landscapes was a common technique shared by schools to support this as well as using rock samples.

### 4. Exam Technique

The command word 'explain' was commonly used across all three papers therefore teaching the difference between a basic and developed explanation was stressed. Strategies to support include:

- WAGOLLS
- Specific writing strings – PEE/PEEL/PECEL/BLT
- Connective use
- Deconstructing an answer or spot the difference between two responses

Further exemplification of deconstruction techniques can be found on the Open Geography Moodle

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