

## Using KS3 effectively to prepare students for KS4

The new GCSE specification is bringing a level of stress for many reasons and one of them is the amount of material and the high level of thinking that has to take place in just two years for the first cohort. The pupils must learn:

- A lot of new content;
- Fluency in locational knowledge;
- How to answer the many new command words;
- The range of numeracy skills and;
- The fieldwork skills and justifications.

The move to add identity to the sections of geography is a response to the higher level of thinking that pupils need to work at as well as the specific level of thinking required in the exams from 2018. KS3 SOW, lesson and assessment making can align to the sections and tracking can be carried out accurately and usefully to inform teachers, pupils and parents of the strengths and areas of development. An example of a pupil tracking sheet for assessments could look like that shown in table 3. By planning which area of geography the assessment is going to test under pressure it makes it more simple to write an assessment and over a year, when combined with classwork, homework and verbal responses, it gives a clear picture of pupil attainment and progress.

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1
Human and Physical geography					
Locational geography					
Literacy					
Numeracy					
Map skills					
Fieldwork skills					

**Table 3: An example of a pupil tracking sheet by geography section**