

Rationale document

Centre number	xx123
Centre name	XXX School
Level and title of syllabus	Cambridge IGCSE Geography
Syllabus code	0460

Why you must complete the Rationale Document for each syllabus

The Rationale Document explains how you have produced and chosen the candidate evidence for your candidates' portfolios of evidence.

You must complete a Rationale Document for each syllabus. We need to see the Rationale Document when Cambridge examiners are marking your candidates' portfolios of evidence. Failure to complete and submit the Rationale Document correctly may result in delays to your candidates receiving grades.

If you are completing this form for an A Level syllabus, you must explain how you have produced and chosen both the AS portfolio of evidence and the A2 portfolio of evidence.

Who completes the Rationale Document for each syllabus?

The Head of Department completes the Rationale Document for each syllabus (or the teacher if there is no Head of Department), to explain to us how you have produced and chosen your candidates' portfolios of evidence.

When you must submit the Rationale Document for each syllabus

You must complete a Rationale Document for each syllabus for which you are submitting entries. The Rationale Document must be uploaded for each syllabus when you upload the portfolios of evidence to Submit for Assessment.

You should also keep a copy of the Rationale Document for your records.

What your completed Rationale Document must include

The Rationale Document must provide information about the areas below as relevant to the syllabus and your centre.

- A Selection of work**
- B Coverage of syllabus content and assessment objectives**
- C Security and authenticity of work**
- D Access arrangements**

What happens after submitting the Rationale Document?

We use the Rationale Document when we mark the evidence that you have submitted for a candidate. If we are concerned that you have not followed the requirements set out in our guidance, then we may need to contact you to explore this further.

Private candidates

If you have accepted entries for private candidates, please explain how their work has been obtained, selected and authenticated, then go on to answer the rest of the questions in this Rationale Document.

We have not accepted entries for private candidates for this syllabus.

The following questions apply to all candidates, including private candidates.

A Selection of work

You must make sure that each candidate is aware of the work you are submitting to Cambridge in their portfolio of evidence. This allows candidates to raise any concerns relating to any particular pieces of evidence, and for you to take these concerns into account before submitting the portfolio to us. If you have told candidates the mark that you have given to a piece of work in the portfolio, you should tell candidates that Cambridge examiners will mark the work again and so the mark you have assigned will not necessarily be the same as the final mark which is assigned by our examiner.

1. Please explain what pieces of work you have used for this syllabus and why you decided to include these in the evidence.

If you have used different pieces of evidence for different candidates, explain how and why this has been done.

If you are completing this form for an A Level syllabus, explain how you have selected both the AS portfolio of evidence and the A2 portfolio of evidence.

For all the candidates except candidates 0032 (Amelia Hodges), 0037 (Emily Jones) and 0065 (Daniel Winters) we used the three pieces of evidence described below.

Evidence 1: Cambridge past paper

Past paper 0460/11 from November 2024. We used this because it a substantial task (1h45) and the questions in it still align with the requirements of the 2025–2027 syllabus. The pupils sat this exam near the end of their course of study in Year 11.

Evidence 2: School test based on Cambridge questions

We used our own school test which covered Geographical skills. We put this together from Cambridge past paper questions from Paper 2 which we took from the School Support Hub. The test lasted 1h and so is acceptable as a substantial piece of work.

The candidates took this paper in Year 10 when they were back in school in between the periods of disruption we have faced. We included it as evidence because we knew it had been taken in school under controlled conditions with teacher invigilation. The reason we put together our own paper was that, at this stage in the first year of the course, our pupils had not covered all the material to attempt all questions on a full Cambridge paper.

Evidence 3: Coursework assignment

Candidates have completed the standard coursework requirements for Component 03, as we have been preparing candidates to be ready to sit their exams in June 2025 and have entered our candidates for the coursework option. The work has been completed in line with the regulations in the syllabus and the Cambridge Handbook. We have marked the work as usual, using the mark scheme in the syllabus, ready for moderation by Cambridge. Now that our centre has been moved to a portfolio of evidence route for this syllabus, we have swapped to using this coursework assignment as a piece of evidence.

Candidates 0032 and 0065

These candidates have alternative *Evidence 3*. They joined our school in the middle of Year 11 and did not have time to complete the coursework assignment, so we had prepared and entered these candidates for the Alternative to Coursework option. So, for *Evidence 3*, these candidates have completed an Alternative to Coursework past paper. We used 0460/42 from June 2024, which still matches the requirements of the 2025–2027 syllabus.

Candidate 0037

Candidate 0037 took her IGCSE Geography initially in the June 2024 series. She completed the exams and submitted her coursework. She is resitting in this series because she was unhappy with her June 2024 grade. The Cambridge rules mean that she can't re-use the coursework that she submitted in the June 2024 series or carry-forward her June 2024 coursework mark. There was not time for her to produce a new piece of coursework ready for this series. Therefore, she also completed paper 0460/42 from June 2024 in the same way as candidates 0032 and 0065.

B Coverage of syllabus content and assessment objectives

We have said that evidence should cover as broad a range as possible of the syllabus content and assessment objectives.

If you are completing this form for an A Level syllabus, explain how you have covered syllabus content and assessment objectives for both the AS portfolio of evidence and the A2 portfolio of evidence.

2. For each candidate's portfolio for this syllabus, are all the major areas of syllabus content included?

Yes No

3. If you have answered No, please explain why the major area of syllabus content is not included.

Although I have answered Yes above, we were not able to teach Section 3.5 as thoroughly as usual because of remote teaching so candidates were less prepared for this part of Paper 1 than usual (Evidence 1).

4. For each candidate's portfolio for this syllabus, are all the assessment objectives included?

Yes No

5. If you have answered No, please explain why the assessment objectives were not included.

6. Have you informed each candidate about the choice of evidence and considered their responses?

Yes No

C Security and authenticity of work

7. You must be able to confirm that the work included in every portfolio is authentic, which means that it is the candidate's own unaided work. You must also be able to confirm that the work included in the portfolio is the candidate's first and only response to the task. Please describe the conditions in which each type of piece of work was completed.

For example, was the work completed entirely in the classroom, was the work completed online under supervision?

- Evidence 1 was completed in the classroom and invigilated by teachers. We were able to do this when the pupils were back in school in between the periods of disruption we have faced.
 - Evidence 2 was also completed in the classroom when the pupils were in Year 10 and was invigilated by the teachers.
 - Evidence 3 (for all but two candidates) was coursework. We followed the guidelines about teacher support and authenticity given in the syllabus. For candidates 0032 and 0065, they took the Paper 4 under controlled conditions with teacher invigilation.

8. How have you authenticated each type of piece of work?

Refer to guidance on authenticity in the [Cambridge Handbook](#) and [on our website](#).

For example, describe the supervision arrangements in place for pieces of work completed in school, or online.

We authenticated the written tests because they were done in school under controlled conditions. With the coursework task, the teachers had regular check-ins with their pupils to see how work was progressing. We made sure that some class time at the start of Year 11 was used to work on the coursework, as well as allowing pupils to work on their coursework for homework, as allowed in the syllabus.

D Access arrangements

Questions 9 and 10 are about access arrangements. Refer to the [Cambridge Handbook](#) section 1.3 for guidance about access arrangements.

9. Did any of your candidates require an access arrangement?

Yes No

10. If you answered Yes, please give details of the access arrangements that were required, and how these were delivered.

Candidate 0026 (Claire Bridges) is entitled to 25% extra time. When she completed the exam papers for Evidence 1 and 2 we allowed her this extra time in the classroom.

Candidate 0041 (James Lewis) is entitled to the question paper printed on coloured paper. This is James' normal way of working in school and we have the right colour of paper in school, so we were able to print out the question papers from the School Support Hub as he needed.

Thank you for completing the Rationale Document.

You must complete a Rationale Document for each syllabus for which you have been moved to the portfolio of evidence route. You must submit them to us when you submit the portfolios of evidence for marking.

I confirm that the information in this Rationale Document accurately represents how evidence was selected and authenticated.

Name

Position

Date