GCE AS

B480U10-1C

S25-B480U10-1C

MONDAY, 12 MAY 2025 – MORNING

GEOLOGY – AS component 1
Geological Enquiries

INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXAMINATIONS OFFICERS

Examinations Officers may share this information with technicians and Geology teaching staff, upon receipt.

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Eduqas AS Geology Component 1 (B480U10-1) is an examination involving the use of geological specimens, geological equipment, a Question Paper, a Resource Sheet, a Mineral Data Sheet and a Photographs of Specimens sheet. For further information, see the relevant page in the Examinations Requirements booklet.

1. The Geological Specimens

These will be despatched to centres prior to the examination in a box or boxes.

In addition, you will receive one colour Photographs of Specimens sheet per candidate to confirm which letter relates to which specimen. The specimens themselves will not be labelled with a letter.

A member of the Geology Department must open the box(es) on receipt and check the contents to confirm that the correct number of specimens of each type is present as per the accompanying photographs. The opening and checking of the specimens must take place under secure conditions within the examinations office. Details of the contents must remain confidential.

Once the specimens have been checked, they and the accompanying photographs should be securely stored, as for the Question Paper, until the start of the examination.

The box(es) include labelled bags containing multiple examples of a specimen, e.g. one bag containing 10 samples of specimen **A**, a second bag containing 10 samples of specimen **T**, etc.

Your centre will be allocated enough specimens to create one set of specimens per two candidates entered.

If you have not received the correct number of boxes/specimens you should immediately contact Eira Morgan (geology@eduqas.co.uk).

2. The Geological Equipment

Each candidate will need to be issued with the following equipment for use in the examination. The equipment will need to be provided by the centre.

- hand lens
- streak plate/unglazed tile
- steel pin/needle, e.g. biology dissection pin or steel nail (5.5 on Mohs Scale)
- copper coin
- dilute hydrochloric acid (0.5 M) and a means of adding it dropwise to a sample, e.g. dropping bottle, teat pipette, etc
- water and a means of adding it dropwise to a sample, e.g. dropping bottle, teat pipette, etc
- a strip of plain paper in order to assist with the construction of a geological cross-section

Please note: only the materials indicated above are permitted for use by candidates and sheets of glass or files/knives are not to be used for the determination of hardness.

It is recommended that spare equipment is made available at the front of the examination room in case of technical issues with equipment.

Candidates are not permitted to use their own geological equipment, only that which is provided by the centre.

3. The Question Paper, Resource Sheet, Mineral Data Sheet and Photographs of Specimens

These will be despatched by WJEC and must be kept in secure storage until the day of the examination, as with any other confidential assessment materials.

4. Instructions for invigilators and/or technicians

These will be provided in the box with the specimens for use on the day of the examination. This document is now available to centres via the WJEC secure website under 'Today's Question Papers'.

5. Persons permitted to be present in the Examination Room

Geology teaching staff are **not** permitted in the examination room at the start of or during the examination.

In addition to the invigilator(s), a science technician or other suitably qualified person must be in attendance throughout the examination in order to offer assistance with issues related to the functioning of geological equipment. This person is not an invigilator and must not count as one when determining numbers of invigilators required to conduct the examination.

6. The Examination Room and its layout

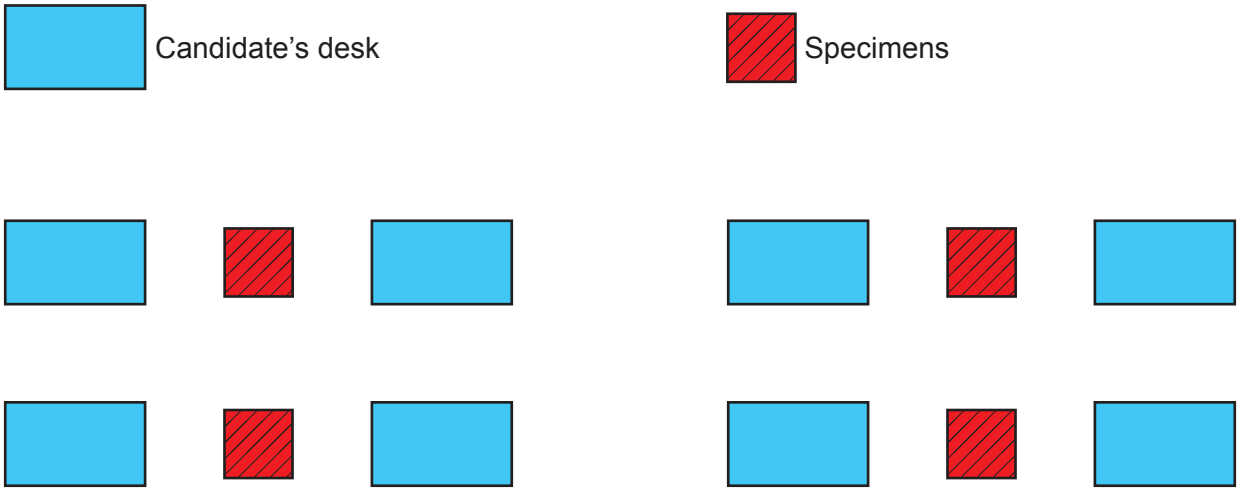
The use of geological specimens by candidates has the potential to disturb other candidates in an examination room. Consequently, this examination must take place in an examination room(s) not used by candidates sitting any other examination. This does not need to be a laboratory but can be any room which complies with the usual JCQ requirements of room suitability for an external examination.

Wall displays should be checked and managed to ensure that they do not contain information potentially relevant to the examination.

The requirements of this examination are such that each candidate must be provided with a desk at least **twice the size** of a standard examination desk.

Candidates must be able to easily access the set of specimens allocated to them in pairs. The specimens should be placed on a small desk or chair/stool between the pair of candidates' desks, such that they can be reached by candidates with the minimum of movement and disruption to other candidates. The layout of the examination room will need careful planning in this regard. An example layout is shown below.

Specimens must be between two candidates. The usual examination rules apply – i.e. that candidates must be a minimum of 1.25 m apart, but are likely to be further apart due to the specimens between them.



7. Setting up the Examination Room

Prior to the examination commencing, the setting up of the examination room may take quite a long time, up to an hour or more depending on the number of candidates involved.

A geology teacher may be involved in the setting up of the examination room, but must not be present at the start of or during the examination.

In addition to any movement of desks, chairs, etc. the following need to be undertaken:

(a) One of each of the listed **geological equipment** is to be placed on each desk.
(b) The geological specimens are to be distributed so that each set of specimens contains one of each specimen, e.g. each set contains one specimen **A**, one specimen **B**, one specimen **T** etc. These must remain covered up until the start of the examination.
(c) The Question Paper, Resource Sheet, Mineral Data Sheet and Photographs of Specimens are to be distributed to each candidate.

Candidates must have access to normal drawing instruments, i.e. ruler, protractor, eraser, and a calculator.

A copy of the Instructions For Candidates for Eduqas AS Geology Component 1 (B480U10-1E) must be available for invigilators in the examination room.

8. Return of Specimens

As soon as possible after the examination, the individual specimens must be carefully packaged and returned in their original labelled bags and box(es). The specimen box(es) must be packed in the pre-addressed plastic sack and **returned to WJEC using the Parcelforce postage label provided**. Under no circumstances should postage and address labels be stuck directly onto the box(es). Please note that candidates' completed examination scripts must not be included in the specimen return. These must be despatched to examiners in the usual way, using the specific stationery supplied.