How does GCSE Geography AQA support fieldwork?

The AQA GCSE Geography specification states fieldwork must be undertaken:

- outside the classroom and beyond the school grounds
- on at least two occasions, including the collection of primary data
- in contrasting locations
- including an understanding about the interaction between both physical and human geographical contexts
- containing a clear link between the subject content and geographical enquiries

Students will be assessed on fieldwork by questions in Paper 3 Geographical applications in the final exam. There will be questions both in relation to students' own experiences of fieldwork and on fieldwork examples in unfamiliar contexts.

Fieldwork spreads in the Student Book serve two important purposes:

- Firstly, to prepare students for going out of the classroom to do their own fieldwork, by offering help and guidance on each stage of a geographical enquiry, including:
  - asking geographical questions
  - a range of fieldwork techniques and collecting fieldwork data
  - processing and presenting fieldwork data
  - analysing and explaining data
  - draw evidenced conclusions
  - reflecting critically on fieldwork

- Secondly, to provide worked examples of fieldwork, reflecting the range of fieldwork enquiries students might expect to encounter in the GCSE assessment. Of course, the range of examples cannot be exhaustive, but the broader students' familiarity with fieldwork processes, the better they will be prepared for fieldwork in unfamiliar contexts.

Fieldwork is covered in Chapter 24 in the Student Book, which uses exemplar studies 'Investigating river processes and management' and 'Investigating variations in urban quality of life'.

For more information:
www.oxfordsecondary.co.uk/aqa_gcse_geog