

## **Steph Warren, Chief Examiner, GCSE Geography**

I've been an Edexcel examiner since 1988 - 23 years in total - in a number of different roles. I became a Principal Examiner in 1999, and a Chief Examiner in 2009.

I do not even recall the specific conversation that has been the subject of all the press coverage in the past few days. I do feel that my views and the training session as a whole which the reporter attended have been misrepresented, and I want to put this on record.

The journalist approached me when I was off-guard - not during the main training session - when I was talking to a couple of colleagues. I had had a really exhausting day of training, one of the most difficult training days for teachers that I've ever done in my career. Some delegates' students found the exam more difficult and had not got the results they were predicted. I had spent much of the day defending the questions that had been set.

I do regret the comments I made which create the impression that the content of the specification is less and therefore the specification is easier than any other Geography GCSE. They were part of a conversation I was having with some colleagues and lead from their comments - being said in the heat of the moment after a long training session.

I don't know why I made those comments as I haven't read the other awarding bodies' specifications, or even Edexcel's other geography specification, so I have no basis on which to compare them. I have always maintained the highest integrity in my training sessions and would never discuss the content of specific examination papers.

Any comments I made during the main session, such as the one about photographs, were based on the specification. They are areas of good practice which any geography teacher could determine from studying the specification.