

GEOGRAPHY - GCSE

Examination Board – AQA

5 periods per 2 weeks

The world in which we live is likely to change more in the next 50 years than it has ever done before. Geography explains why and helps us to prepare for these changes. This exciting course is based on a balanced framework of physical and human geography. It allows students to investigate the delicate links between the natural and human world, and approach and examine the battles between the man-made and natural worlds.

Course Content

Year 10

- the challenge of natural hazards (tectonics, weather, climate change);
- urban issues and challenges;
- physical landscapes in the UK (coastal landscapes, river landscapes);
- river fieldwork (1 day).

Year 11

- urban fieldwork (1 day);
- the living world (tropical rainforests, cold environments);
- the changing economic world;
- the challenge of resource management.

Assessment

This is a linear qualification so all exams will be taken in the form of three exams at the end of year 11.

- Paper 1- living with the physical environment (35% of GCSE) (1h 30). In this paper, knowledge of hazards, the living world and physical landscapes in the UK will be assessed.
- Paper 2- challenges in the human environment (35% of GCSE) (1h 30). In this paper, knowledge of urban issues and challenge, the changing economic world and the challenge of resource management will be assessed.
- Paper 3- geographical applications (30% of GCSE) (1h 15). Within this paper knowledge of your fieldwork investigation and geographical skills (graph skills, map skills etc.) will be assessed.

Style of learning

The course will involve the discovery of information, consideration of problems, an understanding of why things happen, problem-solving and an evaluation of solutions. A variety of teaching and learning approaches will be taken such as essay writing, decision making exercises, videos, presentations, fieldwork, computer work and discussions.

Teaching techniques will lay stress on the development of useful skills (observation, the collection, representation, interpretation and use of data) partly through practical work, including investigations in the field; consequently, some of the course will take place away from the school premises and will include group and individual work. Use of ICT will be integral to the study of the course.

Students will travel the world from their classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom (UK), higher income countries (HICs), newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs). Topics of study include climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. Students are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

Homework

At least 45 minutes to 1 hour per week should be set aside for students to complete a homework task or consolidate and review their learning. Students will be expected to attend tailored revision sessions before examinations and will be encouraged to attend specific intervention sessions to help them build their geographical knowledge and skills.

Progression

Geography is a very well respected discipline within higher education institutes and workplaces due to the variety of skills that it offers and the fact that geography offers the chance to learn about and combine both science and the arts.

Students can progress onto AS and A2 Geography, following the A Level syllabus that is the continuation of the GCSE syllabus. In 2015 The Guardian identified geography as the 'must-have A Level. It is recognised by the Russell Group of Universities as a very desirable A-Level.

In addition, geographers have been known to venture into the world of management and administration, medicine and veterinary medicine, finance and retail.