

GCSE Geography

Exam board:

AQA

Why study Geography?

Today, we are more aware than ever before of the pressure people are putting on the environment, but also of stories surrounding human conflict and poverty. Luckily, so too are we exposed to the success stories of conservation, sustainability and innovation within the modern world. Studying Geography helps to extend your learning of the natural world and human populations, to understand the context behind the stories you hear about in the media, as well as developing the skills to debate world issues, formulate your own opinions and make informed choices.

"Simply put, geography is our future. When we look at any issue with the balance and scrutiny that geographical study offers, we move beyond the media hype or political spin. Geography allows us to see the world more clearly." - **Tom Biebrach**

"Many individuals are doing what they can. But real success can only come if there is a change in our societies and in our economics and in our politics." - **Sir David Attenborough**

Course Requirements

To succeed in Geography, you will need to have an interest in the natural environment and a concern over inequalities among people. Good reading, writing and numeracy skills will also help you to achieve in the subject. During the course, you will develop your understanding of world issues and unfamiliar challenges faced by the natural and human world. Being open to debate and discussion, as well as engaging with the news to hear the latest updates as they develop, will help you to get the most out of the subject. The broad nature of the subject means there may be some topics that you are less interested in initially, but applying a growth mindset and persevering usually changes this outlook. That in itself, is a fantastic life skill!

Course Content & Assessment

Three examination papers:

PAPER 1: Physical Geography - 1hr 30mins - 35%

- Physical Landscapes in the UK - Rivers and Coasts
- The Living World - Tropical Rainforests and Cold Environments
- Natural Hazards - Volcanoes, Earthquakes, Tropical Storms and Climate Change

PAPER 2: Human Geography - 1hr 30mins - 35%

- Urban Issues and Challenges - Sustainable Urban Living, Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) and London (UK)
- Resource Management - Food, Water and Energy
- The Changing Economic World - The Development Gap, Nigeria, The UK Economy

PAPER 3: Geographical Applications - 1hr 15mins - 30%

- Issue Evaluation - debating a geographical issue
- Fieldwork - this includes a compulsory day trip to Skegness for pupils to carry out investigations on the beach and in the town which they will be questioned on in the exam

Exam questions range from multiple-choice questions, to extended written questions up to a maximum of 9 marks.

Marks are awarded in the exam for your knowledge and understanding of the subject, as well as your ability to evaluate issues from different points of view. In addition, the exams include maths, graph and map skills questions, presenting unfamiliar scenarios for you to interpret and analyse.

How can Geography help you?

Geography is a subject that helps young people into work. Many employers prize the knowledge and skills that studying Geography can provide and Geography in higher education is thriving. It opens the doors to a huge variety of careers, from travel and tourism, to the military and marketing. Geography gives young people an insight into the world that many never experience. It is a constantly changing, relevant subject, and a great adventure with a purpose.

