

GCSE Option: Geography

Contact: Miss Mason

Course Structure & Overview

Exam Board: AQA

Syllabus: 8035

Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment

Paper 2: Challenges in the Human environment

Paper 3: Geographical Applications

This exciting and relevant course studies geography in a balanced framework of physical and human themes and investigates the link between them. Students will travel the world from their classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom, higher income countries, newly emerging economies and lower income countries. Students will be provided with an opportunity to provoke and answer questions about the natural and human worlds and are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes. Geography develops knowledge of places and environments throughout the world, an understanding of maps, allows opportunity to develop communication skills and a range of investigative and problem solving skills both inside and outside the classroom. As such it provides pupils for adult life and employment and provides candidates a clear overall view of the world in the first part of the 21st Century.

Course Content

The GCSE is made up of three sections:

Paper 1: Living with the Physical environment – 1 hour 30 minutes examination. 35% of GCSE

The topics include challenge of natural hazards, the living world, physical landscapes in the UK and geographical skills.

Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment – 1 hour 30 minutes examination. 35% of the GCSE

The topics include urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world, the challenge of resource management and geographical skills.

Paper 3: Geographical applications – 1 hour 15 minutes examination. 30% of the GCSE

The topics include issue evaluation, fieldwork and geographical skills.

Skills Developed

- Communication skills
- Graphical and map skills
- ICT skills including GIS
- Literacy, numeracy and statistical skills
- Problem solving skills and formulating enquiry
- Entrepreneurial skills and awareness of career possibilities
- Interpersonal skills through debate, argument and discussion

Progression Routes

Upon completion of this two year course, students will have the skills and experience to progress onto A-level and beyond. Many of our students go on to study the subject at A Level. As many of the skills developed in the subject are transferable, they will also prove useful in vocational post-16 courses such as Leisure, travel and Tourism, retail and commercial enterprise and social sciences. Many employers value GCSE Geography due to the variety of skills the subject develops.

Future Careers

Future careers include teaching, advertising, travel and tourism, armed forces, town planner, journalism, meteorologist, sales, project worker, national park worker, environmentalist, marketing, cartography and landscape design.