The syllabus and exam format

GCSE Geography at St Monica’s follows the new WJEC Eduqas (9-1) Geography B course. In this syllabus pupils study three themes during the two year course:

1. Changing Places – Changing Economies – In this theme pupils will study urbanization in contrasting global cities, urban and rural processes and change in the UK and a global perspective on development issues.

2. Changing Environments – In this theme pupils will study coasts and coastal management, rivers and river management, weather and climate and the causes and effects of climate change.

3. Environmental Challenges – In this final theme pupils will study how ecosystems function, ecosystems under threat, water resources and management and desertification.

The pupils will also be required to complete two 1 day fieldwork trips to contrasting areas, one urban one rural. They will be taught fieldwork methodology, representation techniques and analysis.

The generic titles are set by the exam board on an annual basis. Field trip destinations in the past have included Cleveleys on the Fylde Coast, Castleton in The Peak District, Malham, Salford Quays, and shopping areas in Bury. Parents will be asked to make a contribution of approximately £20 per trip to help fund costs.

For several years we have also taken year 10 pupils who opt for Geography for an enrichment trip to London and visited the Olympic Park, been on the London Eye, toured the major sights and been for a cruise along the River Thames. The trip runs for 3 days/2 nights.

Upon completion of the 2 year course pupils will sit 3 written exams. Component 1 is worth 40% of the final grade and will test the 3 themes outlined above. The exam is 1 hour 45 minutes. Component 2, worth 30% of the final grade, is a 1 hour 30 minute paper. It is a problem solving paper and will assess content from across the 3 themes using a variety of structured data response questions. Finally, component 3, which is again a 1 hour 30 minute paper worth 30% of the final grade will be an applied fieldwork enquiry based upon the teachings of the fieldwork trips.

Why study Geography at GCSE?

The course has several advantages over other G.C.S.E. Geography courses including:

themes chosen to be relevant to young people;

the case studies are up to date and contemporary, so young people learn about the fast changing world around them;

a syllabus not overloaded with content, giving time for a variety of activities and for revision;

an opportunity to develop lifelong skills which pupils can put into practice throughout the course;

Geography is useful in many ways ...as a preparation for the world of work or further education ... or simply as an enjoyable, interesting, subject. It is widely accepted as a good balancing subject which helps you to:

(a) Talk with interest about a variety of topics

(b) Understand the major problems and issues in the world

(c) Have some understanding of people

(d) Acquire a variety of useful job skills

Geography for the future

Geography develops a wide range of intellectual, practical and social skills – just the combination that many employers look for. The study of Geography at GCSE, and beyond, has a direct relevance to careers such as cartography, landscape architecture, environmental consultancy and the leisure and tourism industries, but it’s real importance lies in the number of basic skills it provides and it’s these which pupils can then use to ‘market’ themselves. More and more people who have studied Geography now find themselves in a variety of jobs, including banking, advertising, the media, business management and the armed forces. These may not appear geographically related, but they utilize more general skills and attributes such as the collection, analysis and interpretation of data, the application of methodical working techniques, the ability to view problems from a variety of angles and some general knowledge of the world. While many other subjects cover some of these skills, Geography covers them all. Statistics have also shown that people who study

Geography are among the most employable.

Further information

For further information please visit the syllabus website at

http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/geography/gcse-b/ and click on syllabus B. This

site has more detail on what is covered and has examples of assessments.

Alternatively you can contact Mrs. Flaherty, Head of Humanities, at

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