GEOGRAPHY

GCSE OPTION

AQA

GENERAL INFORMATION

Geography is very much a living, breathing subject and one in which students can see its

applications in the news and their everyday lives. The GCSE course seeks to build students’

investigative skills and make links between physical processes, social and economic

changes and environmental issues.

CONTENT

We follow the GCSE specification from AQA. The subject content is split into three units

and each unit is split into sections which focus on a particular geographical theme.

Unit 1 : Living with the physical environment

Section A “The Challenge of Natural Hazards” : earthquakes, volcanoes, tropical storms,

climate change.

Section B “The Physical Landscapes in the UK.” Plus coastal landscapes and river

landscapes.

Section C “The Living World” : ecosystems. Plus tropical rainforests and hot deserts.

Unit 2 : Challenges of the human environment

Section A Urban Issues and Challenges : urbanisation, settlements and sustainable

cities.

Section B The Changing Economic World : development around the world and changes

to the UK economy.

Section C The Challenge of Resource Management. Plus food supply.

Unit 3 : Geographical Applications

Section A Students apply their knowledge and skills to a particular issue contained

within a resource booklet of maps, graphs and diagrams. This is released

two months before the exam.

Section B Students undertake two fieldwork activities.

Geographical Skills

This is not a separate exam but is included in all three of the units. Students will learn to

use maps and graphical, numerical, literacy and statistical skills.

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

Geography is taught with the aim of developing students’ skills at explaining and analysing

geographical processes supported by real world examples. Students take part in two field

trips, group work, class presentations, debates, library-based research and computer

based research. Geography helps to build literacy skills through extended writing,

numeracy skills and investigation skills through fieldwork.

ASSESSMENT AND EXAMINATION

The course is linear meaning that all three examinations are taken at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1 is 35% of the GCSE, Paper 2 is 35% of the GCSE and Paper 3 is 30% of the GCSE.

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: Mr D Cains