GCSE GEOGRAPHY

Examination Board: AQA

Watch the video to the right to find out more about a GCSE in Geography!

WHY SHOULD STUDENTS CHOOSE GCSE GEOGRAPHY?

Geography is a subject which can form part of the EBacc. It is an academic subject and well respected by universities and employers alike. Geography helps students to make sense of the world around them. It is hands on, it is relevant and it is fun. Current GCSE courses are a good mix of topics such as urban issues, world development, extreme environments, rivers and hazards to name but a few. The course will give students the chance to get to grips with some of the big questions which affect our world and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our world.

To read more about why you should study geography check out the booklet to the right!

WHAT WILL STUDENTS NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS COURSE?

Students following the GCSE Geography course will engage in a variety of learning styles and approaches, including: written communication in the form of short answers to questions and some more detailed writing; research, both collaboratively with other students and individually, using source materials and the internet; the use of ‘thinking’ skills, including individual and collaborative recall exercises; collecting, processing and displaying data as an outcome of departmental fieldwork; critically analysing and interpreting presented data; group and whole class discussions; extracting important, salient and relevant information from audio-visual presentations; outdoor learning through fieldwork, where a minimum of two fieldwork trips will take place during the course.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

This course is suitable for students of all ability levels. Students with aspirations of Grade 7 and above can expect challenges and should always aim to complete ‘stretch yourself’ extension tasks and this will often be thinking in more detail about the causes, impacts and responses associated with key geographical events and the role decision makers have in shaping the world in which we live. Students will be expected to think more deeply about the more complex interactions between people and the physical environment. We will be expecting the level of writing to be sophisticated and students will be able to write extended responses that show logical chains of reason, using key vocabulary with key geographical ideas explained and real case study information cited to illustrate the points they make. Their place knowledge should be good and we will encourage them to further develop this and more advanced graphical and cartographical skills.

Students aiming for Grade 3 and higher will be well supported with sentence structures to help craft written responses and core activities as part of a differentiated approach. We have a wide range of support materials to help revise key topics and students will spend part of Year 9 ‘cementing’ and developing key geographical skills and vocabulary with regular low stakes definition and factual recall tests and plenty of opportunities to develop their extended writing skills over time. We help support students with their connectives to structure sentences when attempting answers to questions that require longer answers. Use of iPads feature highly and tasks and support materials can be accessed through Google Classroom, often days or weeks in advance of the upcoming lessons.

As students approach their examinations we offer both targeted and general revision sessions after school and at key times during tutor periods.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will travel the world from the classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom (UK), 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.

CONTENT & ASSESSMENT SAMPLE ASSESSMENT

Living with the physical environment

Section A: The challenge of natural hazards

Section B: Physical landscapes in the UK

Section C: The living world

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

88 marks (including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology (SPGST)

35% of GCSE

Select the arrows on the images to the right to view the specimen physical paper and insert!

Challenges in the human environment

Section A: Urban issues and challenges

Section B: The changing economic world

Section C: The challenge of resource management

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

88 marks (including 3 marks for SPGST)

35% of GCSE

Select the arrows on the images to the right to view the specimen physical paper and insert!

Geographical applications

Section A: Issue evaluation

Section B: Fieldwork

Written exam: 1 hour

76 marks (including 6 marks for SPGST)

30% of GCSE

Pre-release resources made available from mid March in the year of the exam

Select the arrows on the images to the right to view the specimen physical paper and insert!

CURRENT FIELDWORK

STUDENT WORK SAMPLES

FURTHER EDUCATION AND CAREER PATHWAYS

A wide variety of A-level and degree courses are open to students with a GCSE qualification in geography. Details of career paths open to geographers can be found by clicking here and include town and transport planning, chartered surveying, land and water management, sustainability, environmental consultancy, development, tourism, conservation, demography, housing and social welfare and journalism.