GEOGRAPHY

Assessment: Edexcel A

Terminal Examinations

Weighting 100%

Number of Papers/Length

Paper 1: Physical Environment (1h30/37.5%)

Paper 2: Human Environment (1h30/37.5%)

Paper 3: Geographical Investigations - Fieldwork & UK Challenges (1h30/25%)

Style of exam

Short answer and long answer questions (no essays), often based on photographs, maps and graphs.

What is GCSE Geography?

GCSE Geography involves the study of the natural and human environments and how they interact with each other. The course considers a series of important contemporary issues including extreme weather events, hurricanes, deforestation, flood damage and flood prevention, coastal protection, urban growth and regeneration, globalization and sustainable development - to name but a few!

GCSE Geography enables an understanding of these issues and promotes the need to develop sustainable responses.

Why is GCSE Geography a useful subject to take?

There has never been a more important time to study Geography. Geographical issues are

increasingly the topic of local, national and international debates on key issues including pollution, world poverty, immigration, globalisation, and the seemingly more common and devastating natural disasters. Having knowledge and understanding of geographical issues has become essential in modern industry, government, science and education and as a consequence, good Geographers are becoming ever more sought after. Geography at GCSE is unique in the range of transferable skills acquired by students throughout the course; these include primary and secondary data collection and interpretation, report writing, numeracy, literacy, and ICT. Consequently, Geographers can go on to study a wide range of post-16 courses. Geography is highly regarded by higher education institutions (e.g. The Russell Group of Universities) and Geographers are highly sought after by gradate employers.

Geography in Years 10 and 11

We will be following the Edexcel A specification. It contains three components:

Component 1 - The Physical Environment. This includes studies of:

o The changing landscapes of the UK – rocks and coasts

o Weather hazards and climate change – tropical cyclones and drought

o Ecosystems, biodiversity and management – tropical rainforests and deciduous

woodlands in the UK.

Component 2- The Human Environment. This includes studies of:

o Changing cities – in the UK and around the world

o Global development – the challenges facing our divided world

o Resource management – energy issues and sustainability.

Component 3 - Geographical Investigations: Fieldwork & UK Challenges.

There are two topics:

o Geographical investigations & Fieldwork - we investigate a coastal landscape and an

urban environment (see below)

o UK Challenges – this draws upon the rest of the course and will explore consumption

and sustainability; population and economics; landscape & the UK’s climate change

challenges.

The balance of theory, skills and practical fieldwork makes this course highly suitable for

students across a range of abilities and with diverse interests.

Fieldwork

Our department is passionate about the importance of geography in today’s world. We are

committed to offering students the opportunity to experience real-world learning

throughout their career at TBSHS. Over the course of a year, we run trips for years 7, 8,

9, 10, 11 and 12 to places as diverse as Epping Forest, the Thames Barrier, Cambridge,

London, Walton-on the Naze and to Dorset, which is a residential trip at A-level. The

Geography Department also periodically runs a fantastic trip to Iceland, considered to be

one of the birth places of modern physical geography.

Fieldwork involves human and physical data-collection, analysis and presentation, which

increasingly uses GIS mapping software. Students become accomplished at evaluating and

writing up research findings, all skills which make geographers highly employable!

‘A’ Level Geography

Post-GCSE Geography has changed beyond all recognition and we believe that the changes

are making Geography one the most contemporary, relevant and exciting courses to take.

Many of our students go on to study Geography in many forms, including Environmental

Science, Oceanography and International Relations at university, including Cambridge

University. We have offered a variety of extended learning opportunities in the past

including visits to the Royal Geographical Society in London and video-links with UK

government officials in Ghana. Please speak to members of the Geography department for

more information.

How can you find out more?

If you, or your parents, would like to find out more about GCSE Geography, your Geography

teacher or any member of the Geography Department will always be happy to talk to you.