Geography GCSE

Why study GCSE Geography?

Geography will help you understand the world around you. It is hands on, it is relevant and it is fun. The AQA course we offer provides a good mix of urban issues, world development, extreme environments, rivers and hazards to name but a few. The course will give you a 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 change and shape our world.

There are so many ways of learning in geography. It is practical, we offer our students the opportunities to learn and develop skills such as GIS, mapping, interpreting data, and role-playing and debating. Geography will help develop literacy skills through report writing and written work and make practical use of numeracy skills when you interpret data and construct graphs. Fieldwork is an important part of our Geography course, we offer at least two opportunities for fieldwork. These are brilliant opportunities to experience some of the things we have learnt about in class.

The subject content is split into four units: 3.1 Living with the physical environment, 3.2 Challenges in the human environment, 3.3 Geographical applications and 3.4 Geographical skills.

In units 3.1 and 3.2 the content is split into sections, with each section focusing on a particular geographical theme. Unit 3.3 sets out the requirements for fieldwork and issue evaluation. Unit 3.4 sets out the geographical skills that students are required to develop and demonstrate.

In the specification content, students are required to study case studies and examples. Case studies are broader in context and require greater breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding. Examples are more focused on a specific event or situation, are smaller in scale and do not cover the same degree of content.

How will I be assessed?

You will have three written exams. Papers 1, 2 are 1 hour 30 minutes long and together, they contribute 70% of your final written mark. Paper 3, which looks at your skills, is 1 hour 15 minutes long and this contributes to the final 30% of the GCSE.