GCSE GEOGRAPHY

Exam Board: AQA

Why should I study Geography?

Geography is all about understanding why the world is the way it is. The world in which we live is likely to change more in the next 50 years than it has ever done before. Geography explains why this is and helps to prepare you for those changes.

What will I study?

Unit 1 – Living with the physical environment

Topic A – The Challenge of natural hazards – Tectonic Hazards, Weather Hazards and Climate Change.

Topic B – The Living world - The tropical rainforest, and a choice of either deserts or cold environments.

Topic C – Physical landscapes in the UK – Coasts and a choice of either rivers or glaciation.

Unit 2 – Challenges in the human environment

Topic A – Urban issues and challenges.

Topic B – The changing economic world.

Topic C – The challenge of resource management – A choice of water, food or energy.

Unit 3 – Geographical applications

Topic A – Issue evaluation - Includes pre released sources 12 weeks before the exam.

Topic B – Fieldwork – 2 fieldwork activities that investigate both human and physical environments. Both field trips will take place out of the school grounds.

Topic C – Geographical skills – This will be assessed throughout the course and will be assessed across all units. These skills include OS map reading, graphical skills, numerical skills, statistical skills, the use of qualitative and quantitative data, and of course literacy skills.

How is the course examined?

Students will sit three exams at the end of Year 11 that will make up 100% of their final grade. The controlled assessment element no longer exists; however, students will still be examined on skills they have learnt in the field after completing trips covering both the physical and human aspects of the course content that is shown above.

❖ Paper 1 – Living with the physical environment. An exam lasting 1 hour 30 minutes that makes up 35% of the final grade.

❖ Paper 2 – Challenges in the human environment. An exam lasting 1 hour 30 minutes that makes up 35% of the final grade.

❖ Paper 3 – Geographical applications. An exam lasting 1 hour 15 minutes that makes up 30% of the final grade.

Types of questions: multiple choice, short answer, level of response, and extended prose.

What can this course offer me?

Students follow a syllabus where the work that the students will do covers a range of transferable skills which will equip students for working life. These include being spatially aware, socially and environmentally aware, problem solvers, good team players, computer literate and flexible thinkers.

What will this course prepare me for?

Statistics show that, compared to other subjects, Geography graduates are among the most employable. This is because they possess the skills that employers look for. In part this is because the subject is a combination of the facts of science and the understanding of the arts.