GCSE Geography

This is a core academic subject which contributes to the English Baccalaureate.

Top universities will expect entrants to have studied and achieved a good grade

in these subjects.

Aims

To enable students to:

• gain skills in observing, collecting and analysing evidence

• use sources including maps, visual material and statistics

• develop decision-making and communication skills

• acquire skills in presenting information appropriately

Assessment

The course is assessed with three written examinations at the end of the

course. Unit 1 examination focuses on physical geography and accounts for

35% of the overall GCSE. The unit 2 examination assesses human geography

topics and also accounts for 35% of the overall GCSE grade. The remaining

30% of the GCSE comes from unit 3 which assesses geographical skills such as

fieldwork and issue evaluation.

Examination Board

AQA

Any Questions?

Mrs Jagelman

Head of Geography

Main Topics and Information about the Course

Unit 1: Physical Geography: In this unit, students will study three topics

including ‘The challenge of natural hazards’, ‘The living world’ and ‘The physical

landscapes of the UK’. This unit is designed to integrate physical geography

concepts with a variety of different geographical skills such as map reading and

graph drawing.

Unit 2: Human Geography: Students will study three further topics in this unit

including, ‘Urban issues and challenges’, ‘The economic world’ and ‘The

challenge of resource management’. This unit is designed to show the impact of

population growth and development on our planet.

Unit 3: Geographical applications: This unit is designed to assess geographical

skills, such as fieldwork techniques and issues evaluation. Students will carry out

fieldwork in year 11 and students will be examined on this fieldwork in the written

examination. Further to this, students will be asked to complete a decisionmaking exercise during the examination. Students will be making decisions about

a synoptic issue, which draws upon the physical and human topics studied.

Students will be given pre-released material in order to successfully complete this.

Where might this lead?

Students can go onto A level geography and beyond that to university. Geography

is highly regarded as an A level option as it facilitating subject teaching a wealth of

skills which are useful for a range of degree options. Career sectors include energy

and utilities, agriculture, education, environment and conservation, science and

research, public sector and consultancy. Job opportunities are many and diverse,

such as energy engineer, research scientist, ecology, Civil Servant, Environmental

Health Officer, Management Consultant, Data Analyst and teacher.