



GCSE Geography

Key contacts: Mr R Bray
Exam Board: AQA

Overview of the course:

Why choose Geography?

We all live our lives geographically. Planet Earth is our home. It is awesome, diverse, inspiring and ever changing. We are committed to encouraging students to participate fully in the excitement, enjoyment and challenge of this dynamic world. Students will draw on personal experience; to help better understand the places they live in, why they matter and how they are connected to a globalised world. Students will learn about the physical, cultural, economic and political spheres to illuminate key issues for the present and the future. We aim for all our students to appreciate the diversity of landscapes, societies and cultures so our students are 21st century global citizens, enabling them to investigate and to think critically and creatively about the complexities of places, and different views and feelings relating to places.

What will you study?

The course consists of four main areas: physical environments, human environments, issue evaluation and fieldwork.

Living with the physical environment examines the challenge of natural hazards (tectonic hazards, tropical storms, extreme weather in the UK and climate change), physical landscapes in the UK (coastal and river) and the living world (tropical rainforest, hot deserts or cold environments).

Challenges in the human environment examines urban issues and challenges (population growth, urbanisation, megacities and sustainability), the changing economic world (economic development, the development gap, managing development, TNCs and debt) and the challenge of resource management (food, water and energy resources).

The issue evaluation uses students' skills to think critically and problem-solve. Students will have the opportunity to demonstrate geographical skills and applied knowledge and understanding by looking at a particular issue(s) derived from the specification using secondary sources.

Students will also conduct fieldwork. They will undertake two enquiries which are carried out in contrasting environments and show an understanding of both physical and human geography in action.

Assessment

AQA GCSE Geography is 100% examination assessed. There are three terminal examinations at the end of Year 11. There will be regular internal assessments to help judge your progress throughout the course.

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment (35%)

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment (35%)

Paper 3: Geographical applications (issues analysis, fieldwork and skills) (30%)

Possible career path:

Geography is inherently multidisciplinary in a world that increasingly values people who have the skills needed to work across the physical and social sciences. Some possible career paths include:

- Environmental Consultant
- Climate Change Analyst
- Emergency Management Specialist
- Surveyor
- Town Planner
- Volcanologist
- Water Conservation Officer
- Travel Writer
- Coastal Engineer
- Political Risk Analyst
- Transport Planner

Others may pursue a career in environment and development, international relations, humanitarian programmes, conservation etc.