

What is Geography?

Geography is about understanding the world's people, places, and environments. It illuminates the past, explains the present and prepares us for the future. What can be more important than that?

Geography is one of the most popular option choices at GCSE with over a third of students in England taking the subject. Geography is not only up-to-date and relevant, but also one of the most exciting, adventurous, and valuable subjects to study at GCSE level. So important, in fact, that the *Guardian* newspaper in 2015 named Geography as a 'must-have GCSE and A-Level' to help you make sense of the world.

If you are not sure about what you want to do in the future, Geography helps to keep your options open. It is a subject that goes well with the Sciences and Mathematics as well as the Humanities, Languages and Arts. It is very flexible in terms of what it can be combined with both at GCSE and A Level.

What skills will I develop?

There are so many ways of learning in Geography. It is very practical with opportunities to learn new skills such as modern computer-based mapping (called GIS), digital technologies, map skills, interpreting photographs, analysing articles, decision-making and debating.



Fieldwork and trips are an important part of Geography. You will learn how to investigate issues in the real world. You will improve your literacy through your report writing and written work and you will also learn how to put forward your own point of view and convince others that you are right!

You will make practical use of your numeracy skills when you interpret data and construct graphs. Your memory skills will also be boosted as you learn key memory techniques to help you remember case study information (facts and figures about places).

Such a wide variety of skills gained in Geography will be useful to you after you leave school. These skills are highly sought after by sixth form colleges, universities, and employers.

What syllabus will I follow?

AQA GCSE Geography (8035)

What will the course look like?

The course is split into three sections:

GCSE Geography Exam board:AQA

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment

1.1 The challenge of natural hazards (33 marks)

- Natural hazards
- Tectonic hazards
- Weather hazards
- Climate change

1.2 The living world (25 marks)

- Ecosystems
- Tropical Rainforests **Choose 1**
- Hot deserts OR cold environments

1.3 Physical landscapes in the UK (30 marks)

- UK physical landscapes
- Coastal landscapes
- River landscapes **Choose 2**
- Glacial landscapes

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment

2.1 Urban issues and challenges (33 marks)

2.2 The changing economic world (30 marks)

2.3 The challenge of resource management (25 marks)

- resource management
- food
- water **Choose 1**
- energy

Paper 3: Geographical applications

3.1 Issue evaluation (37 marks)

Critical thinking, problem-solving, geographical skills and applied knowledge and understanding derived from secondary sources.

3.2 Fieldwork (39 marks)

Exam questions based on two geographical enquiries.

Fieldwork and Trips

Fieldwork is an important aspect of geography. It provides areal world opportunity for students to develop and extend their geographical thinking as it adds value to classroom experience. As part of the course, you will take part in two pieces of fieldwork which will allow you to investigate different geographical issues.

Fieldwork for Unit 1 will be an investigation into river processes and flooding in Carding Mill Valley Shropshire.

Fieldwork for Unit 2 will be a day in Birmingham City Centre.



What homework will I get?

Homework is set every week with a range of activities and challenges including reading, research, note-taking and practice examination questions.

How will I be assessed?

There are three examinations at the end of Year 11:

- Unit 1 (1hr 30mins) tests Physical Geography (3 topics)
- Unit 2 (1hr 30mins) tests Human Geography (3 topics)
- Unit 3 (1hr 30mins) tests Fieldwork and contains a Decision-Making Exercise

What jobs or further courses of study might this lead to?

Students who have studied Geography have gone on to work in the following sectors: law, science, sales, business, environment, information technology, management, finance, banking, marketing, research, manufacturing, teaching, childcare, engineering and building, arts, design and media, town planning, working abroad and many (many) more...

Are there any entry requirements for this course?

As the course is so broad, having good numeracy, literacy and scientific skills will be particularly important. If you choose Geography, you must be prepared to work hard and be interested in the world around you. You will be required to develop and demonstrate a range of geographical skills, including the use of maps, numbers and statistics. Spelling, punctuation, and grammar are assessed in all three examinations.

If I need additional support, what can I access?

A wide range of support is available in Geography.

You will have access to a range of resources throughout the course. Many resources such as revision quizzes and games will be available online. The department offers revision/drop-in sessions in Year 10 and Year 11 to allow you to receive further advice and support. Revision guides are also available to purchase.

If you need any advice, please see Mrs Ghani (Acting Head of Geography) and Mrs Habib.

***‘Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future’ –
Michael Palin***