



Year 9 Options
Information Guide

GCSE Geography

Why choose GCSE Geography?

GCSE Geography is a challenging and rewarding subject. It is more than just memorizing places on a map. Geography is a continually changing subject, which engages students to understand the complex issues that our world faces today. GCSE Geography allows students to examine the physical and man – made world, and the interaction that exist between them.

Subject Specific Skills:

- Fieldwork
- Mapping techniques
- Decision making
- Problem solving
- Analysis of diagrams, photos and data
- Data presentation
- Explanation of global issues
- Investigation of issues in the real world
- Empathy
- Debate and evaluation

Transferable Skills:

- Confidence Building
- Communication Skills
- Numeracy and Literacy
- Skills
- Time Management
- Employability Skills
- Life Skills
- Teamwork
- IT Skills
- Problem solving

Key Information

GCSE Awarding Body: AQA

GCSE Specific Unit Content:

The challenge of natural hazards including tectonics, tropical storms, extreme weather in the UK and climate change.

Physical landscapes in the UK

The living world including tropical rainforests and cold environments.

The urban world

The changing economic world

Resource management

Progression Opportunities:

Geography is a facilitating subject, and it opens doors for both A level and continuing study at University.

In 2016 32,000 students studied A level Geography, of which 82% went on to study at University, 18% of those undertook a degree in Geography, and 21% went on to study Science.

Potential Careers from Geography:

Pupils 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...

Reasons for choosing Geography:

‘Geography is a living, breathing subject, constantly adapting itself to change. It is dynamic and relevant. For me geography is a great adventure with a purpose’

‘Geography prepares for the world of work – geographers with their skills of analysis are highly employable’

Michael Palin

GCSE Assessment and Grading:

This GCSE is awarded on the grade scale of 9 (highest) to 1 (lowest). The course is linear which means that Students undertake three examinations at the completion of the course. The GCSE exams in Geography include questions that allow students to demonstrate their ability to draw together their knowledge, understanding and skills from across the full course of study and provide extended responses.

Paper 1:

Living with the natural environment.

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
- 88 marks (including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology (SPaG))
- 35% of GCSE

Paper 2:

Challenges in the human environment.

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
- 88 marks (including 3 marks for SPaG)
- 35% of GCSE

Paper 3;

Geographical applications (fieldwork investigation, Issue investigation and geographical skills)

- Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
- 76 marks (including 6 marks for SPaG)
- 30% of GCSE
- Pre-release resources booklet made available 12 weeks before Paper 3 exam

Both NEAs Internally marked and moderated.

If you require any further information about this GCSE, please don't hesitate to contact Mr D Bellamy for a discussion. I am more than happy to talk you through it further, and answer any questions you may have.
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