

GCSE Geography

Why study Geography?

The GCSE course is ideal for students who have enjoyed the subject at KS3 and who wish to deepen their understanding of issues and concepts affecting their environment. The content focuses on current issues including the challenge of natural hazards and the management of world resources and utilises a range of case studies from around the World.



In addition students will study the Geography of the UK in depth as well as apply investigative skills to develop their awareness of landscapes beyond the UK. Significant focus will also be applied to the use of fieldwork and subsequent skills of data presentation and analysis in order to deepen student understanding.

What will you be learning?

Unit 1: Living with the Physical Environment (35% of overall grade):

This will be delivered in Year 10 to be assessed in the June of Year 11. Components selected for study include:

- The challenge of natural hazards
- Physical landscapes in the UK (focusing on River & Glacial landscapes)
- The living world

To support delivery of this unit and enhance student understanding the department offer a 2 day residential in the Lake District.

Unit 2: Challenges in the Human Environment (35% of overall grade):

This will be delivered in Year 11 for assessment in the June of Year 11. Components selected for study include:

- Urban issues & challenges
- Changing economic world
- Challenge of resource management (focusing on water management)

Unit 3: Geographical applications (30% of overall grade):

Delivered using case studies and fieldwork.

This exam will involve analysing pre-released material in order to prepare for a range of questions interpreting resources, making decisions, applying fieldwork skills and reflecting on fieldwork experiences.

Unit 1 and 2 examinations have a duration of 1hr 30mins, whilst Unit 3 will be assessed in an exam of 1hr 15mins. All exam papers will include a few multi-choice questions and a range of short answer and more challenging extended response questions.

What are the lessons like?

Lessons focus on developing both student knowledge and geographical skills so utilise a range of teaching methods including map work, case studies, presentations and some group activities. All teachers make good use of video bytes, films and animations to deepen understanding. Students will be required to attend 2 fieldwork experiences in contrasting environments.

What can it lead to?

Success at GCSE allows access on to the A level programme and reflects a superb grasp of knowledge and skills applicable in everyday life.

Want to know more?

Ask any member of the Geography team.