

Geography

This course studies Geography in a balanced framework of physical and human themes and investigates the link between them. You will travel the world from the classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom (UK), newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs). Topics of study include climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use.

You will be encouraged to:

- Understand your role in society by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.
- Develop and extend your knowledge of locations, places, environments and processes and of different scales (including global); and of social, political and cultural contexts (know geographical material).
- Gain understanding of the interactions between people and environments, change in places and processes over space and time, and the inter-relationship between geographical phenomena at different scales and in different contexts (think like a geographer).
- Develop and extend your competence in a range of skills including those used in fieldwork, in using maps and GIS and in researching secondary evidence, including digital sources, and develop your competence in applying sound enquiry and investigative approaches to questions and hypotheses (study like a geographer).
- Apply geographical knowledge, understanding, skills and approaches appropriately and creatively to real world contexts, including fieldwork, and to contemporary situations and issues. Develop well-evidenced arguments drawing on your geographical knowledge and understanding (applying geography) and environments.

The curriculum is divided into three themes which have been designed to develop an understanding of both the natural and human environments – skills are an element common to all themes.

Paper 1: The challenge of natural hazards; physical landscapes in the UK; the living world.

Paper 2: Urban issues and challenges; the changing economic world; the challenge of resource management.

Paper 3: Issue evaluation (the resource sheet will be available in March 2021) and fieldwork (questions will involve an understanding of the techniques used to complete a geographical enquiry in the field).

How will I be assessed?

Demonstrate knowledge of locations, places, processes, environments and different scales (15%).

Demonstrate geographical understanding of: concepts and how they are used in relation to places, environments and processes; the inter-relationship between places, environments and processes (25%).

Apply knowledge and understanding to interpret, analyse and evaluate geographical information and issues to make judgments (35%, including 10% applied to fieldwork context(s)).

Select, adapt and use a variety of skills and techniques to investigate questions and issues and communicate findings (25%, including 5% used to respond to fieldwork data and context(s)).

You will sit three written exam papers at the end of the course.

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment

Written Paper - 1 hour 30 minutes - 88 marks

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment

Written Paper - 1 hour 30 minutes - 88 marks

Paper 3: Geographical applications

Written Paper – 1 hour 15 minutes – 76 marks

Further Information

You will develop essential skills such as problem-solving, decision-making, synthesizing ideas, identifying issues and communicating findings through the undertaking of fieldwork investigations, individually and as part of a team. The GCSE specification has strong links with other subjects, including citizenship, IT and science; subjects which focus on sustainability and the global dimension.

A five-day fieldtrip will take place towards the end of Year 10 and will cost approximately £425. Geographical enquiry skills from the fieldtrip will be utilised in all three papers, but especially Paper 3.

Exam Board: AQA Syllabus 8035

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035