

GEOGRAPHY

AWARDING BODY: AQA

The GCSE syllabus covers some of the most important global issues facing the planet today. Geography provides a global perspective to GCSE studies and helps students develop the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to deal with the issues which will affect them throughout their life.

There are six main topics (three Physical Geography, three Human Geography), plus an examination of two pieces of fieldwork and an issues evaluation.

Unit 1: Living with the Physical world: 1 hour 30 minutes (35%)

- Challenges of Natural Hazards: Tectonic hazards (volcanoes and Earthquakes), tropical storms, extreme weather in the UK and climate change.
- Physical landscapes in the UK: Coasts and Rivers.
- The Living World: Local ecosystems, tropical rainforests and cold environments.

Unit 2: Challenges in the Human Environment: 1 hour 30 minutes (35%)

- Urban challenges: Global patterns in two contrasting cities and sustainable urban futures.
- The Changing economic world: Global patterns, closing the development gap, contrasting studies of economic development.
- The challenge of resource management: Overview of resources in the UK, global resources and food security.

Unit 3: Geographical Applications: 1 hour 15 minutes (approximately 30%)

- Issue Evaluation: Theme of an issue which can be selected from any part of the specification based on secondary material in a pre-release booklet.
- Fieldwork: two fieldwork enquiries of physical and human environments. The fieldwork enquiry process is assessed through examination.

Geography helps to develop a wide range of skills by using maps of various kinds and scales, analysing graphs, photographs and diagrams, collecting fieldwork data and making reasoned judgments on geographical issues.

Students are encouraged to read widely and pursue their own interests in depth using the internet. GIS

and ICT are regularly used in lessons to bring the world into the classroom.

There are regular fieldwork opportunities including overseas trips to destinations such as Iceland and Costa Rica and there will be two compulsory fieldwork days to prepare for Unit 3.