

Geography
Examination Board: AQA

What is the course like?

The issues-based GCSE Geography course builds on the foundations laid during Key Stage 3 and will allow progression into the post-16 phase of education. During Years 10 and 11, pupils will study a balance of physical, environmental and human geography topics, and will, through a range of examples, highlight the linkage which exists between them. Case studies will involve a variety of scales - local, regional, national and global.

What is studied during the course?

Unit 1: Living with the physical environment

- The challenge of natural hazards: Tectonics, Weather and Climate Change
- Physical landscapes in the UK: Rivers and Glaciated Landscapes
- The living world: Ecosystems including Tropical Rainforests and Cold environments

Unit 2: Challenges in the human world

- Urban issues and challenges: Cities in Low income countries/ Newly Emerging Economies and high income countries.
- Changing economic world: The Development gap, Nigeria and The UK economy.
- Resource management: With a focus on Water

Unit 3: Practical application of geography

- Issues evaluation: problem solving on any element of the course- This includes a pre-release booklet.
- Fieldwork skills: Students will be required to undertake two different types of fieldwork exercise, one human and one physical.

How is the course assessed?

Pupils will be assessed by three written exams:

Paper 1: assesses Unit 1, 1 hour 30 minutes, 35% of the final grade

Paper 2: assesses Unit 2, 1 hour 30 minutes, 35% of the final grade

Paper 3: assesses fieldwork and skills along with issues analysis, 1 hour, 30% of the final grade

Additional Information

GCSE pupils will take part in a day's fieldwork in the Forest of Dean in order to complete a series of tasks linked to river processes and impact of visitors on a rural area. In addition, there will be opportunities during lesson time to complete fieldwork in the local area, e.g. looking into housing quality in Chippenham. Our intention is to also run an optional awe and wonder 5 day trip to Iceland in 2024 for those pupils who study Geography GCSE.

Geography pupils with their knowledge and understanding of environmental and resource issues are well placed to make a significant contribution to the economy and to society. By selecting GCSE Geography, you will be choosing a subject that will give you a range of transferable skills. You will be aware of events around you and appreciate that people have different views and there are different solutions to issues.

For further information, please contact Mr Rowe.