



Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. It is hands on, it is relevant and it is fun!

The GCSE geography course is a good mix of topics such as urban issues, world development, extreme environments, rivers, and hazards. The course will give you the chance to get to grips with some of the big issues which affect our world, and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our world._

GCSE geography is designed to allow a large number of topics to be studied and to provide an insight into a variety of the most important and relevant geographical issues. This diversity also allows all students to find topics they are interested and engaged in.

Course Overview

Human geography:

- Urban issues and challenges

Cities and urban areas are some of the most dynamic regions of the world. For the first time, a majority of the global population now lives in towns and cities. This topic looks at reasons why urban areas emerge and develop unevenly within and between countries and the challenges and opportunities that this creates.

- Economic development

Globally, there are large variations in economic development and standards of living between countries. This topic looks at the reasons for, and consequences of, having a 'global development gap' in addition to why such divides occur nationally such as the UK's north-south divide.

- Resource management

The demand for food, water and energy is rising across the globe, yet the supply of all of these resources is limited which can create conflicts. Technological advances allow new strategies to be used which can increase the supply of some resources, however these can be controversial.

Physical Geography:

- Global ecosystems

A range of environments will be studied - all have distinctive characteristics, which have led to distinctive adaptations within their plant and animal communities. Whilst these environments all provide economic opportunities such as using rainforests for logging, farming or energy, they are extremely fragile environments which require sustainable management.

- Global hazards

The Earth is continually undergoing changes. These changes result in the creation of a variety of hazards that pose a threat to both humans and the environment. Some of these hazards you will have already felt the effects of in the UK, such as climate change and weather hazards, whilst others occur in geographically distinct regions such as tectonic hazards and tropical storms.

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment

What's assessed

3.2.1 Urban issues and challenges, 3.2.2 The changing economic world, 3.2.3 The challenge of resource management, 3.4 Geographical skills

How it's assessed

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

Questions

- Section A: answer all questions (33 marks)
- Section B: answer all questions (30 marks)
- Section C: answer question 3 and one from questions 4, 5 or 6 (25 marks)
- Question types: multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response, extended prose

- Landscapes

The distinctive landscape of the UK has been gradually formed over millions of years by coastal, glacial and fluvial (river based) processes, which continue to act today. A number of physical and human factors affect the processes of erosion, weathering, deposition and transportation.

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment

What's assessed

3.1.1 The challenge of natural hazards, 3.1.2 The living world, 3.1.3 Physical landscapes in the UK, 3.4 Geographical skills

How it's assessed

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

Questions

- Section A: answer all questions (33 marks)
- Section B: answer all questions (25 marks)
- Section C: answer any two questions from questions 3, 4 and 5 (30 marks)
- Question types: multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response, extended prose

Assessment

Paper 3: Geographical applications

What's assessed

3.3.1 Issue evaluation, 3.3.2 Fieldwork, 3.4 Geographical skills

How it's assessed

- 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

Questions

- Section A: answer all questions (37 marks)
- Section B: answer all questions (39 marks)
- Question types: multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response, extended prose

Gaining transferable skills

Studying GCSE geography provides you with a variety of valuable skills and knowledge that can be transferred and used across other subject areas and in everyday life. Key skills and knowledge gained are listed below:

- Highly relevant knowledge
- Looking at issues differently
- Fieldwork
- Teamwork
- Place knowledge
- Geographical Argument
- Data skills
- Visual communication skills