

GEOGRAPHY

Geography is a dynamic subject which offers the opportunity to study the physical characteristics of places and how people interact with them. The world around us is forever changing and this allows pupils to study a subject which is forever evolving making use of current affairs and recent events.

The Department follows the GCSE AQA specification. This course has three papers:

1. Living with the Physical Environment

- Challenge of Natural Hazards
- The Living World
- Physical Landscapes in the UK

2. Challenges in the Human Environment

- Urban Issues & Challenges
- The Changing Economic World
- The Challenge of Resource Management

3. Geographical applications

- Issue Evaluation
- Fieldwork

Course outline

The course provides the opportunity to learn about hazards such as earthquakes and volcanoes and to consider the role of climate change as a hazard in the future. Exploring biomes such as the rainforest and cold environments enables a deeper discussion of how the natural world works whilst also considering how humans have a role and an impact. Developing a deeper knowledge and understanding of physical landscapes of the UK, such as coastal and river landscapes, completes the Physical paper.

Pupils will learn about the role of humans in both High Income and Low-Income countries, including the economic, social and environmental impacts of people on the planet. An understanding of globalisation is developed which provides a chance to consider the role of global groups and governments. As the world is

continually moving forward the final part of the Human paper considers the strain humans put on resources and how we might be able to manage resources like food, water and energy.

The entire course is underpinned by the pupils having the ability to evaluate a geographical issue or enquiry. They need to be able to consider the views of different groups and how an issue can be resolved.

Assessment

1. Living with the Physical Environment

- 1 hour 30 minutes
- Examination
- 88 marks
- 35% of final GCSE mark

2. Challenges in the Human Environment

- 1 hour 30 minutes
- Examination
- 88 marks
- 35% of final GCSE mark

3. Geographical Applications and Skills

- 1 hour 15 minutes
- Examination
- 76 marks
- 30% of final GCSE mark
- Pre-release paper comes out 12 weeks prior to examination

Fieldwork

It is an essential part of the course for pupils to complete a Human and Physical fieldwork trip and the skills learned will be applied to Paper 3, where there are fieldwork questions. There will be one Human fieldwork trip and one Physical fieldwork trip.

There is an optional overseas trip, usually every two years.

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