



Geography

At GCSE we follow OCR B 'Geography for enquiring minds'.

Through the study of Unit 1 *'Our Natural World'*, students will gain an appreciation of the natural world around them including tectonic and weather hazards, climate change, the UK's distinctive landscapes and the global ecosystems which support life on the planet.

In Unit 2 learners will explore the complexities of *People and Society* through studying why more than half of the world's population live in urban areas, the dynamic nature of development, the UK in the 21st century and human reliance on key resources for survival and economic gain. Geographical and fieldwork skills are embedded throughout the content ensuring students become both adaptable and resilient no matter their future pathway. The links, connections and ideas within the eight topics of *Our Natural World* and *People and Society* will be brought together in Unit 3 for a *Geographical Exploration*.

This is a decision making exercise which will encourage students to become critical thinkers by applying their knowledge, understanding and questioning skills to develop arguments and opinions on a range of issues.

Unit	Content summary	Assessment
Unit 1 Our Natural World	Global Hazards Changing Climate Distinctive Landscapes Sustaining Ecosystems <i>Fieldwork</i> <i>Geographical Skills</i>	35% of total GCSE 1 hr 15 min written paper
Unit 2 People and Society	Urban Futures Dynamic Development UK in the 21 st Century Resource Reliance <i>Fieldwork</i> <i>Geographical Skills</i>	35% of total GCSE 1 hr 15 min written paper
Unit 3 Geographical	Geographical Skills	30% of total GCSE

Exploration	Decision Making Exercise	1 hr 30 min written paper
-------------	--------------------------	---------------------------

Geography encourages students to develop a sense of wonder about the world and the topics we study in this course will excite and engage learners with contemporary topics covering the breadth of this dynamic subject. The course is based around a series of relevant enquiry questions such as:

- 'How can weather be hazardous?'*
- 'How do plate tectonics shape our world?'*
- 'What evidence is there that climate change is a natural process?'*
- 'What makes a landscape distinctive?'*
- 'What influences the landscapes of the UK?'*
- 'Why are natural ecosystems important?'*
- 'Why should tropical rainforests matter to us?'*
- 'Is there more to polar environments than ice?'*
- 'Why do more than half the world's population live in urban areas?'*
- 'What are the challenges and opportunities for cities today?'*
- 'Why are some countries richer than others?'*
- 'How is the UK changing in the 21st Century?'*
- 'Is the UK losing its global significance?'*
- 'Will we run out of natural resources?'*
- 'Can we feed 9 billion people by 2050?'*

As well as helping to create a lifelong love of geography by providing learners with an interest in different places, people and environments, whilst ensuring an appreciation of the geography of the UK in the 21st Century, GCSE Geography will also equip students with a skill set sought after by employers.

Students will develop skills in communication; organisation; research; critical analysis; understanding and creating maps including using GIS; interpreting graphs and analysing data; formulating enquiries and developing arguments and decision-making.

As a subject that bridges the gap between the arts and sciences, Geography combines well with other subjects and is viewed as a 'facilitating subject' for university entrance. At A-Level students have combined geography with a range of arts and science subjects including Economics, Sociology, RS, Music, English, Psychology, MFL, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Maths. Geography can lead to many diverse careers. A few examples of career paths taken by Geographers include conservation worker, military mapping

specialist, environmental consultant, health education campaigner, travel writer, lawyer, coastal engineer, travel agent, armed forces, flood protection manager, urban planner for sustainability *(Source: Royal Geographical Society with IBG).*