

GEOGRAPHY

COURSE DETAILS

Exam Board: AQA (8035)

Website: www.aqa.org.uk

Our new specification enables a variety of teaching and learning approaches. This exciting and relevant course studies Geography in a balanced framework of physical and human themes and investigates the link between them. Students will travel the world from the classroom, exploring case studies in high income countries (HICs), newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs). Topics of study include: the challenge of natural hazards; the living world; physical landscapes in the UK; urban challenges; the changing economic world, and the challenge of resource management. Students are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

Students develop numerous life skills through the study of Geography which employers have traditionally recognised as a valued asset. This is much more than the traditional expectation of a working knowledge of maps and atlases but extends to effective group work, encouraging leadership, organisation, time management and communication. Inter-personal skills are required when students are gathering data, whilst an analytical problem-solving approach is required to interpret data. Geography holds a unique position in that it bridges the divide between the Sciences and the Arts subjects. Geographers are eligible for a wide range of jobs: Ecotourism Advisor, Flood Prevention Officer, Risk Assessor, Water Supply Controller, Coastal Manager, Soil Conservationist, Estate Manager, Forestry Ranger, Pollution Analyst, Civil Service, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Oil Exploration, to name but a few. The new broad-based curriculum at A level means that students will be able to study Geography in conjunction with either a Science or Arts background. At this stage in most students' education it seems wise to keep options open and Geography GCSE offers this.

SETTING ARRANGEMENTS

The department will be guided by the timetable outcomes but normally students are placed in mixed ability groups where all students are expected to gain 9-4 regardless of their target. The department does have an excellent long term record of achieving success above the national average. **In 2015 81% of GCSE candidates passed with a grade C or above and 27% of students achieved A or A*.**

ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Terminal exam: 100% of the final grade consisting of three papers – Paper 1 Physical Geography (35%), Paper 2 Human Geography (35%) and Paper 3 Geographical Applications (30%).

HOMEWORK POLICY

As in all GCSE subjects, students will be expected to complete quality homework on a regular basis to enable them to fulfil their potential. The Geography staff is committed to stretching students of all abilities to the maximum so that they can be proud of their achievements at the end of the course.

OTHER DETAILS

All students studying Geography must take part in two fieldwork investigations during the course to prepare them for Paper 3. This will involve practical fieldwork where students will investigate a hypothesis. A letter giving full details of the fieldwork will be sent out a few weeks before we go. If a student is away from school on the date, due to unforeseen circumstances, the department will rearrange a time for data collection for that individual.

A level Geography is a popular subject choice in the Sixth Form and value-added data clearly shows how effective the department is in getting the students to fulfil their potential.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

MR S ATKINSON