



GEOGRAPHY

AWARDING BODY: EDEXCEL

QUALIFICATION: GCSE

AVAILABLE: ALL STUDENTS

COURSE OUTLINE

We follow the Edexcel GCSE (9–1) Geography A course. This takes a thematic approach to Geography, with content organised by physical and human environments. It also enables students to explore the people-environment challenges we face in the UK and to undertake fieldwork (which is a compulsory requirement across all exam boards). The fieldwork we conduct at GCSE is a two night residential trip to Somerset, in the Summer term of Year 10, at an approximate cost of £250 per student.

Course Overview

The Physical Environment:

- The changing landscapes of the UK - Coastal and River Landscapes
- Weather hazards and climate change - including two studies of tropical storms and drought
- Ecosystems, biodiversity and management - including two studies of tropical rainforests and temperate deciduous woodlands

The Human Environment

- Changing cities - two studies including a UK city and a city in a developing or emerging country
- Global development - a study of a developing or emerging country
- Resource management - a study of water

Geographical Investigations: Fieldwork and UK Challenges

- Fieldwork - one physical and one human investigation
- UK Challenges - a study drawing across the Physical Environment and the Human Environment. Students use geographical skills to investigate a contemporary challenge drawn from one or more of key themes: Resource consumption and environmental sustainability, settlement, population and economics, landscape and climate change

The subject would be most suitable for students who like to find out about the world and places around them, keep up to date with current affairs, enjoy visiting places, find maps interesting (including google maps and Google Earth), would like to make a difference to their world, like to ask questions about places, are interested in climate change and extreme weather, are intrigued by changes in our cities, take an interest in our environment and are prepared to work hard both in class and at home.



ASSESSMENT METHOD

Students are assessed in three exams at the end of Year 11:

- The Physical Environment - 1 Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes, 94 marks, 37.5%
- The Human Environment - 1 Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes, 94 marks, 37.5%
- Geographical Investigations - 1 Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes, 64 marks, 25%

SKILLS ACQUIRED

- To use, interpret and analyse geographical data
- To learn about places, patterns and processes
- To develop a sense of place and an appreciation of the environment
- To develop skills in map work, Geographical Information Systems, numeracy, literacy and the application of geographical enquiry
- To use geographical terminology confidently in writing
- To ask geographical questions.

Specification: http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Geography-A/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/Specification_GCSE_L1-L2_Geography_A.pdf

Assessment: <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gces/geography-a-2016.coursematerials.html#filterQuery=category:Pearson-UK:Category%2FSpecification-and-sample-assessments>