

GCSE Geography



"The truth is: the natural world is changing. And we are totally dependent on that world. It provides our food, water and air. It is the most precious thing we have, and we need to defend it." - **Sir David Attenborough**

Without Geography – you are nowhere!



The world in which we live in is likely to change more in the next 50 years than it has ever done before.

Geography explains why and helps to prepare you for those changes. Geography tackles, investigates, and searches for answers developing knowledge and understanding for big issues and challenges like environmental responsibility, our global interdependence and place in the world, cultural understanding, and tolerance. The transferable skills which geography fosters are an asset in the complex world of employment today. Geography is about the future and encourages flexible thinking and provides a firm basis for life-long learning. You will be able to see the world that you live in, question, and answer why it is like this and what the future holds.

What are the topics I will study?

- **The challenge of natural hazards** – tectonic hazards, weather hazards and climate change.
- **The living world** – tropical rainforests and hot deserts.
- **Physical landscapes in the UK** – river and coastal landscapes.
- **Urban issues and challenges** – the urban world, urban change in the UK and sustainable urban development.
- **The changing economic world** – the development gap, Nigeria as a Newly Emerging Economy, and the changing UK economy.
- **The challenge of resource management** – resource management in the UK, food management, water management or energy management.
- **Geographical skills** – decision-making, fieldwork, cartographic, graphical, and statistical skills.

Fieldwork: All scholars will go on two fieldtrips in Year 10 where you will collect primary data as part of fieldwork exercises to help you prepare for your paper 3 exam. Each fieldtrip will provide the opportunity to visit physical and human landscapes, e.g., a coastline and a city centre.

Further reading:

AQA GCSE specification: [GCSE Geography Specification Specification for first teaching in 2016 \(www.aqa.org.uk\)](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

Royal Geographical Society – Choose Geography: <https://www.rgs.org/geography/choose-geography/>

Qualification Details:

- **Qualification:** GCSE
- **Exam board:** AQA
- Included in the EBACC award.

Assessment Pathway:

Geography is a linear course, which means that you will be assessed at the end of Year 11. You will sit three exams as follows:

- Paper 1 – **Living with the physical environment** (35%)
- Paper 2 – **Challenges in the human environment** (35%)
- Paper 3 – **Geographical applications** (30%)

Possible Careers:

• Discover new places!

Travel Agent, Tourism Officer, Media Researcher.

• Enjoy being in the outdoors?

Coastal manager, Geologist, Civil Engineer, Surveyor.

• Interested in people?

Planner, Social Worker, Market Researcher, Diplomat.

• Interested in world events?

Aid Worker, Refugee Advisor, Charity Coordinator, Disaster Management

Employability Skills:

- **Problem Solving:** The ability to find a solution to a situation or challenge.
- **Aiming High:** The ability to set clear, tangible goals and devise a robust route to achieving them.

"Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future".

-Michael Palin

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