

GCSE Geography

Examination Board: AQA

Director of Learning: Victoria Hamp

victoria.hamp@abbeyfieldschool.org.uk

Why study Geography?

Geography as a subject is highly nuanced. For anyone wondering 'What is Geography?', it focuses on the study of the physical features of the earth and its atmosphere, as well as the effects of human activity. This includes the human impact on the environment, distribution of populations and resources, and political and economic activities.

For these reasons, it's clear to see why studying Geography is beneficial. If you choose to study an AQA Geography GCSE, you will get to examine topics such as urban issues and challenges. This covers urbanisation, and its effects, the emergence of megacities and human migration. In contrast to this, you will examine the natural world, including natural threats such as tectonic and weather hazards.

Geography examines what is happening now on a more natural level. Examples could be anything from human migration through necessity or opportunity, the growing significance of health, education, energy supplies and clean water, and the impact on society should those things grow in scarcity. Considering the breadth of content covered in Geography and the analytical skills you'll develop; it complements a host of other subjects. These include; history, sociology, biology, environmental science and maths.

Possible next steps (including careers)

Undertaking A Level Geography or Environmental Science

Unsurprisingly there are plenty of career opportunities should you choose to pursue Geography studies. Were you to eventually study Geography at university, you could go on to Geography jobs and work as a Cartographer, Environmental Consultant, or Town Planner among others. Geography is also useful in tourism, astronomy, nature conservation, sustainability and recycling, and architecture.

Aptitudes needed

An interest in reading and writing.
Clear expression on paper and orally.
Good listening skills.
Willingness to contribute to discussions and to develop arguments.
Ability to keep to deadlines.

Topic Structure

The subject content is split into four units:

Living with the physical environment, Challenges in the human environment, Geographical applications, Geographical skills.

Year 10 Physical Geography topics

- Natural hazards, Climate change, Ecosystems, including tropical rainforests and hot deserts, UK landscapes, specifically rivers and coasts.

Year 11 Human Geography topics

- Urbanisation looking at Rio de Janeiro and London, The changing economic world, looking at Jamaica, Nigeria and the UK, Resource Management, looking at food, water and energy around the world.

Fieldwork

- One trip for physical geography, one trip for human geography.

Assessment Structure

Question types: multiple-choice, short answer, completing graphs, extended prose.

Geography Paper 1 is worth 35% of gradeSection A: (33 marks)
Section B: (25 marks)
Section C: (30 marks)**Geography Paper 2 is worth 35% of grade**Section A: (33 marks)
Section B: (30 marks)
Section C: (25 marks)**Geography Paper 3 is worth 30% of grade**Section A: (37 marks)
Section B: (39 marks)