

AQA Geography:

AQA Geography enables a variety of teaching and learning approaches. It is an exciting and relevant course that studies geography in a balanced framework of physical and human themes and investigates the link between them. Students will travel the world from their classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom (UK), higher income countries (HICs), newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs). Topics of study include climate change, tectonic and weather hazards, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. Students are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

Aims/Outcomes of AQA Geography:

- Develop and extend knowledge of locations, places, environments and processes, and of different scales including global; and of social, political and cultural contexts.
- Gain understanding of the interactions between people and environments, change in places and processes over space and time, and the inter-relationship between geographical phenomena at different scales and in different contexts (think like a geographer)
- Develop and extend competence in a range of skills including those used in fieldwork, in using maps and GIS and in researching secondary evidence, including digital sources; and develop their competence in applying sound enquiry and investigative approaches to questions and hypotheses (study like a geographer)
- Apply geographical knowledge, understanding, skills and approaches appropriately and creatively to real world contexts, including fieldwork, and to contemporary situations and issues; and develop well-evidenced arguments drawing on their geographical knowledge and understanding (applying geography).

How is AQA Geography Assessed?

Students will sit three exam papers. Paper 1/Paper 2 are both weighted at 35% and Paper 3 is weighted at 30%. Each paper assesses students using multiple choice questions, short answer responses and levelled extended answers.

Paper 1 – Living with the physical environment.

This unit is concerned with the dynamic nature of physical processes and systems, and human interaction with them in a variety of places and at a range of scales. The aims of this unit are to develop an understanding of the tectonic, geomorphological, biological and meteorological processes and features in different environments, and the need for management strategies governed by sustainability and consideration of the direct and indirect effects of human interaction with the Earth and the atmosphere. This includes topics such as: 'The challenge of natural hazards', 'The living world' and 'Physical landscapes in the UK'.

Paper 2 – Challenges in the human environment.

This paper is concerned with human processes, systems and outcomes and how these change both spatially and temporally. They are studied in a variety of places and at a range of scales and must include places in various stages of development, such as higher income countries (HICs), lower income countries (LICs) and newly emerging economies (NEEs). The aims of this unit are to develop an understanding of the factors that produce a diverse variety of human environments; the dynamic nature of these environments that change over time and place; the need for sustainable management; and the areas of current and future challenge and opportunity for these environments. This includes topics such as: 'Urban issues and challenges', 'The changing economic world' and 'The challenge of resource management'.

Paper 3 – Geographical applications.

The Geographical applications paper is designed to be synoptic in that students will be required to draw together knowledge, understanding and skills from the full course of study. It is an opportunity for students to show their breadth of understanding and an evaluative appreciation of the interrelationships between different

aspects of geographical study. There are two main elements to this paper – Section A – Issue Evaluation and Section B – Fieldwork;

Paper 3 Section A – Issue Evaluation

A resource booklet will be available twelve weeks before the date of the exam so that students have the opportunity to work through the resources, enabling them to become familiar with the material. Students will not be allowed to take the original resource booklet into the examination room but will be issued with a clean copy in the exam. Sources could include maps at different scales, diagrams, graphs, statistics, photographs, satellite images, sketches, extracts from published materials, and quotes from different interest groups. Assessment will consist of a series of questions related to a contemporary geographical issue(s), leading to a more extended piece of writing which will involve an evaluative judgement. Students will apply knowledge and understanding to interpret, analyse and evaluate the information and issue(s) in the pre-release resources booklet and the question paper. They will also use geographical skills to set the issue(s) in context and to examine conflicting viewpoints about the issue(s).

Paper 3 Section B - Fieldwork

To complete the course students need to complete a fieldwork investigation which will be applied to exam questions on Paper 3. Students need to undertake two geographical enquiries, each of which must include the use of primary data, collected as part of a fieldwork exercise. Fieldwork must take place outside the classroom and school grounds on at least two occasions. The two enquiries must be carried out in contrasting environments and show an understanding of both physical and human geography. In at least one of the enquiries students are expected to show an understanding about the interaction between physical and human geography.

Where can Geography take me?

Career opportunities are available in surveying, mapping, mining, town planning, landscape architecture, nature conservation, estate management, transport, housing management, market research, education and the armed forces. All these and many others specify the need for a geographical education and/or qualification. Employers are increasingly attracted to individuals with a geographical qualification as there are many transferable skills linked to academia and social development. Geography is the most employable degree. Both 'green' careers and careers in GIS (a skill developed in geography) are increasing in demand, as the current population do not possess the skills in these areas. These jobs being in the tertiary and quaternary sector, benefit from a generous salary.

How can I support my studies at home?

You will be able to access a free online revision guide, podcasts, revision videos and articles to support your course via teams. We will also provide you with proven retrieval practice techniques to help support your home studies and revision, a bank of exam past papers and a wealth of model answers. Homework will be issued weekly and will take the form of revision cards and exam practice. It is imperative that this homework is completed, to ensure core knowledge is consolidated.