SUBJECT & QUALIFICATION: AQA GCSE (9-1) in Geography

Why is the study of Geography important?

Go beyond the map and the globe, geography is the study of the importance of place to every aspect of life. It explores humanity and its relationship with its geographical location. By investigating the key concepts of sustainability, climate change, human and physical interactions, development and physical processes you will become a more social and environmentally conscious citizen. Geography is the study of physical, environmental, and human existence and each theory is examined through its individual characteristics but more importantly through the complex relationships with each other. From economic change to plate tectonics, Geography students benefit from obtaining skills in investigation, communication, numeracy, and analysis. You will be able to demonstrate understanding of interrelationships between places, context, and processes. You will delve into the deep Amazon, relocate to the Antarctic, always returning home to compare and explore your own environment. You will be encouraged to question your current environment, looking at how each of the topics are linked with the city we live in and how the city has developed focusing on interaction between Human and Physical geography. You will develop solutions for world problems in the classroom which could then become the answers for a safe and secure future.Your study of Geography will encourage you to think deeply and help you more effectively make links to other subjects like Science and Maths, great life skills that all universities and employers will appreciate.

Across your study you will explore Physical, Human and Environmental Geography. You will gain an understanding of why countries are at different levels of development and the impact that this has on the populations and environments of those countries. You will understand the physical and human factors that cause and contribute to natural disasters and the importance of natural resources, ecosystems and economic links around the world. Lessons will provide a wide range of opportunities for group work, role play, independent research and will encourage you to challenge yourself to suggest solutions to problems faced around the world. Geography is both creative and problem solving and your geography classroom will be brimming with opportunities to explore the world through images, film clips, stories of personal experiences and of course, maps! You will engage with questions such as 'Does aid help or hinder the development of lower income countries?' Why do people live in dangerous places? How can we be more environmentally friendly? Why are global businesses important? How can the quality of life of the poorest people in the world be improved? You will have the chance to ask questions about what is changing in the UK, always linking back to your local environment, to study it more closely by collecting data and analysing it to find out what it tells you. Seems challenging - you are going to love it! Geography will expand your mind!

We look at 5 core concepts across the geography curriculum:

Sustainability - This is about understanding how to meet the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations to meet their own needs. In practice this affects many aspects of geography. They must understand this concept and how it relates to long term aid or the use of renewable energies.

Climate Change - Understanding the causes and potential consequences of global climate change on people and the environment are crucial in implementing strategies to reduce the threat of climate change in the future. This is a core concept that has become increasingly important in student's lives and it is vital that they have a good understanding of it. As well as studying a whole unit on climate change, they will also consider the concept through resource management, ecosystems, natural hazards and development.

Human/Physical interactions – Geography fundamentally comprises human geography and physical geography. However, it is rare that these two sit or work in isolation of each other. This core concept is concerned with the interactions between the two, whether it is the impact of deforestation on the rainforest or of natural hazards on human settlements. It is found in every unit of study.

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Physical processes – The fundamental building blocks are the physical processes that shape our landscapes and the physical features that sit within them. Students should have a clear knowledge of erosion, transportation and deposition and the conditions that cause them. They should then be able to link this to particular features e.g. transportation and deposition forming a spit or erosion forming a waterfall. In addition, students should be aware of the processes of weathering and climatic processes that also impact tropical storms and extreme weather.

Development – This concept ultimately underpins many of the issues that students will face in Y7 and 8 lessons. The ideas of poverty and inequality, the reasons behind them, impact of them and solutions to them will be covered. Students should have a clear understanding of quality of life and what it means in different parts of the world and how HICs are so very different to LICs. How does this impact on a countries readiness for a natural hazard, or their ability to have food security? It affects population, migration and whether or not CO2 is being released at an increasing rate in a country. In addition, students should have a clear idea of the multiplier effect (both positive and negative) and how this clearly shows how a country develops.

What skills will the study of Geography teach you?

You are a citizen in this world and you need to know how to analyse a variety of sources of information, to be able to use data to identify key patterns. It will teach you to…

- interpret maps, diagrams, photographs and satellite images
- see patterns in our everyday lives and in the environments around us
- use Geographical Information Systems to explain geographic information
- collect primary data through fieldwork and about what secondary data is relevant and reliable
- present data using a wide variety of maps, graphs and diagrams
- understand how modelling can help us predict changes
- develop detailed written arguments that incorporate evidence
- solve problems
- use a variety of maths skills to help interpret geographical information and explain events and patterns
- recognise the strengths and weaknesses of data
- evaluate the usefulness of information
- assess the effectiveness of different data collection methods and data presentation techniques
- write strong arguments and use evidence to convince others of your viewpoint

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What will you know and understand from your study of Geography?

- The basic physical systems that affect everyday life e.g. our weather and climate, plate tectonics, water and nutrient cycles
- You will learn the location of places and the physical and cultural characteristics of different places
- You will improve your understanding of why our world is so interconnected and how technology is changing the geography of the planet
- We will understand the geography of the past and how geography has played important roles in the way people develop their ideas to understand places and environments
- You will develop a detailed knowledge and understanding of a wide range and scale of places including your local area, your country and the world so that you can understand where places are, why events happen and what impact the location of these events might have
- You will be able to explain how the processes of human (e.g. urbanisation) and physical systems (e.g. weather and climate) have organised and sometimes changed the surface of the Earth
- You will understand and recognise the spatial organisation of population globally and in the UK
- You will use your understanding of spatial distributions at all scales — local and worldwide — in order to understand the complex connectivity of people and places
- You will learn to evaluate sensible evidence driven judgements about how people and the environment interact
- You will be able to apply your knowledge in order to suggest wise management decisions about how the planet's resources should be used
- You will gain a better understanding of global interdependence and how to become a better global citizen

How can you deepen your understanding of Geography?

Geography is the perfect subject to cover key geography events such as: World Clean-up Day, World Fair Trade Day and Earth Day. The geography department offers lots of great opportunities for you to really engage with this fabulous subject. In KS3 we engage with competitions, and quizzes. These websites have lots of links that can support your learning www.waterexplorer.org, https://www.nationalgeographic.org/idea/fun-geography/). Across Key Stage 3 students engage in local fieldwork and we follow the amazing geographical events that occur in the news so that if there is an eruption, an earthquake or hurricane, you get the chance to watch it and learn about it. We link to global geographical days like Earth Day and to UK events like Fairtrade Fortnight.

In GCSE, we encourage students to join the fieldwork opportunities that are on offer and trips to a UK coastal location like the Holderness Coast to observe coastal landforms and processes in action and a visit to Sheffield.

The revision website (geography.outwood.com) provides a rich resource of geography information for you to use to support your studies including revision guides, links to case studies or examples, key word glossaries and much more. https://docs.google.com/document/d/14JfkRPTRTDBuqdLVA9Uu7L1MstmkiSzJ4sNt0-N2BiI/edit?usp=sharing

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How are you assessed in Geography ?

There is assessment throughout every unit of learning in Key Stage 3. This will take various forms including Key indicator pieces which are a simple assessment based on skills e.g map skills assessment and some extended writing of key learning questions. These KIP assessments will give the students an opportunity to show what age related expected level they are working at.

Regular quizzing is used within lessons and is incorporated in the planning over units/ series of lessons to assess students' knowledge and skills. These include “do now” starters (used as opportunities to regularly re-activate prior learning) and AFL strategies within lessons e.g use of white boards and true/false activities and plenaries.

Key Assessment Objectives

The 4 key learning objectives for Geography are:
Demonstrating knowledge of locations, places, processes and environments at different scales. Question types could include: describe, give, define, outline or name.
Demonstrating geographical understanding of concepts and interrelationships in relation to places, environments and processes. Question types could include: explain why, outline the reasons for, compare.
Apply knowledge and understanding in a new context Question types could include: interpret, analyse, evaluate and make a judgement or decision.
Select, adapt and use a variety of skills and techniques to investigate questions and issues and communicate findings. Question types could include: how many, describe, calculate, complete this graph to show, using figure 9.

How can Geography support your future?

Of course we offer the study of GCSE and we encourage your continued study in this fantastic subject. Yet we know that choice and personal interest are important aspects of worthy study. Whether you have continued your study of geography into GCSE or A level or not you will have gained access to this enriching subject and its study will have taught you to think differently and deeply.

The very fact that geography develops such a wide range of transferable skills such as analysis, interpretation and the use of statistical techniques to explore a wide range of data will help your future applications be they for colleges, universities, apprenticeships or employment.

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Geography is offered at most prestigious universities either as a single honours or a joint honours subject studied alongside other disciplines e.g. BA Geography and Economics, Geography and Sociology, Geography and Management (University of Leeds), Social Sciences including Geography (Liberal Arts Degree at University of Durham). Students of geography will usually continue to study physical and human aspects of the subject but you can then opt for units that particularly interest you.

Study of Geography can lead to a wide range of careers:

The study of geography can be a spring board into a huge range of career choices because of the transferable skills you will develop. Students who study geography are among the most employable people and according to the UKs higher education statistics, geography graduates are among the least likely to be unemployed after their degree. Of specific note are the analytical and IT based Geographical skills that geography students develop.

Geographers fulfil a wide range of careers; financial services, planning, working in the environment, environmental law, environmental engineering, travel and tourism, international charities, retail, international relations, GIS, management, environmental Health Technician, transport, GIS officer, environmental Adviser, sales Recruitment Consultant, GIS Technician/ Analyst, data Quality Officer.

KS3 Programme of Study:	Half Term 1	Half Term 2	Half Term 3	Half Term 4		Half Term 5	Half Term 6	
Year 7 (2 lessons per week)	What is our place in the world?	Why are Ecosystems so different?	What is development ?	How does ice and water shape our landscape?	**Fieldwork - Are there differences in the quality of the environment around school ?**	How diverse is Africa?	How am I linked to climate change ?	
Year 8 (1 lessons per week)	How Risky are Natural Hazards?		How diverse is Asia ?			How does geography influence Russia?		**Field work - How sustainable are we ?**

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Year 9 (2 lessons per week)	How extreme is the world's weather?	Is tourism a blessing or a curse ? **Fieldwork - Where do students at OAC go on holiday?**	How important are our oceans ?	Do we live in a divided world?	Will we all live to be 100**?**	What does it really mean to be sustainable?

KS4 Programme of Study:	**Half Term 1**	**Half Term 2**	**Half Term 3**	**Half Term 4**	**Half Term 5**	**Half Term 6**
Y10 (AQA) (3 lessons per week)	Unit 1 : Living World	Unit 2 : Resource Management	Unit 1 : Natural Hazards -Tectonics	Unit 2 : Urban Issues	Unit 1 : Natural Hazards -Weather and Climate change	Unit 1 : Physical Landscapes Coasts Unit 3 : Physical Fieldwork
Y11	Unit 3 : Human Fieldwork Unit 1 : Physical Landscapes Rivers	Unit 2 : Economic Change	Unit 2 : Economic Change	Unit 3 : Issues Evaluation	Unit 3 : Unseen Fieldwork	Revision