

GCSE Geography

Why bother?

GCSE Geography gives you an insight into the world you live in. It helps you understand, appreciate and explain your environment. For example, it enables you to understand the location of settlements, how glaciers shaped the landscape of the Lake District, how and why do we protect our coastline, how have farming practices changed in the UK, what are issues with global population growth, how do we reduce population growth, what are the cause and consequences of global warming? And many more.

How will GCSE Geography be assessed?

There are three papers. They are all sat at the end of Year 11.

- 1. Living in the UK Today – 1 hour (30%)*
- 2. The World Around Us – 1 hour (30%)*
- 3. Geographical Skills and Fieldwork – 1 hour and 30 mins (40%)*

Are there any fieldwork opportunities?

We visit the North Norfolk coast to investigate both the physical erosion of the coastline and how humans are protecting it. This day is usually focussed on Hunstanton. We also have an opportunity to do some local fieldwork around the town of Uppingham.

Do I need to know the names of countries and capital cities?

No, Geography GCSE is about the formation of our precious planet and how humans interact, use, and often abuse our environment. Throughout the course, you will improve your knowledge of locations, but it is not necessary at the start.

Do I need to be able to read maps?

Map reading is an important skill and there is often a short question (1 or 2 marks) on each of the exam papers. However, we will spend time practising and honing your map reading skills throughout the two-year course.

Will there be lots of writing?

As with all current GCSE subjects there is a considerable amount of writing, including note taking and sketching. Within the GCSE Geography course, there is also many opportunities to study the world through documentaries and online research. Class activities also include Geographical skills, such as, Geographical Information Systems (GIS), cartographic (Mapskills) and graphical skills.

Are students set by ability?

No, all groups are mixed- ability.