

Geography

What will I learn?

Our course is extremely varied, giving you the chance to learn about many of the world's major human and physical features. Physical geography includes topics as varied as rivers and coasts, hurricanes and ecosystems. Human topics range from urban change and regeneration to looking at issues of the changing global economy. Human and physical geography come together when we take a long term look at topics like climate change and desertification. We will study the causes of these changes, how they affect different people in different places and how we are responding to them. Students will travel the world from the classroom, exploring case studies like sustainable housing in Sheffield, London and the Middle East.

Component 1— Investigating geographical issues

- Changes to where people live and changes to how people work.
- How the environment is changing, including rivers, coasts, weather and global climate.
- Environmental challenges, including pollution, ecosystems, water shortage and desertification.

Component 2— Problem solving geography

This will set an issue in a global context, explore solutions and give students the opportunity to justify a response.

Component 3—Applied fieldwork enquiry

Applied fieldwork enquiry involving data collection, analysis of results and application across all geographical topics.

What skills do I need?

The skills you have built up in key stage 3 are designed to help you with your GCSEs. By doing geography GCSE you will develop a wider range of skills, some specifically geographical (like using a range of maps and fieldwork skills), others mathematical (like simple statistics) together with graphical, literacy and data presentation skills. All these are valuable transferable skills.

Assessment

Examination

- Component 1: Investigating geographical issues | 1 hour 45 mins | 40%
- Component 2: Problem solving geography | 1 hour 30 mins | 30%
- Component 3: Applied fieldwork enquiry | 1 hour 30 mins | 30%

Could lead to:

A GCSE in geography is an excellent stepping stone to a wide range of careers and post-16 opportunities. A good grade will allow you to take any A-level course, including continuing with geography. However, the discussion skills and ability to understand people's actions will help you if you want to follow a career in social sciences or the arts, like education, media or law.

Some of the content of GCSE geography can be a good introduction to new subjects (at A-level) like business studies and sociology.