

Years 10 and 11 (GCSE)

What will I Study? - A Description of the Course

The AQA Specification A Geography GCSE course covers a range of human and physical Geography topics and seeks to emphasise the interactions between humans and their environment. In the course you will study many of the key issues facing human populations and which you see in the news on a regular basis, such as the effects and management of population migration and natural hazards. The course will help your understanding of the world around you and how it is changing. The course covers some topics that you have studied before in KS3 and several which you have not covered before.

Fieldwork and investigations are an important and compulsory part of the course and contribute to your grade. You will acquire and develop skills, such as collecting and analysing data, report-writing, investigative skills, problem-solving, decision making, understanding different points of view, team work, communication skills and the use of ICT. These types of skills are highly relevant and transferable to higher education and the world of work afterwards.

AQA Specification A (9030)

Year 10 - Unit 1: Physical Geography

'The Restless Earth' (Plate tectonic processes, earthquakes & volcanoes); 'Water on the Land' (River processes, landforms and flooding); 'The Coastal Zone' (Coastal processes, landforms and management)

In Year 10 pupils do coastal fieldwork into coastal landforms, processes and management on the Holderness Coast, Yorkshire – 2 days/1 night

Year 11 - Unit 2: Human Geography

'Population Change', 'Changing Urban Environments', 'Tourism'

Year 11 - Unit 3: Local Fieldwork Investigation worth 25% of the course

A controlled assessment / coursework investigation into urban land use differences and change in Wakefield. The investigation involves fieldwork, data collection, data presentation, analysis and evaluation.

Assessment

The course is assessed by two 1 hour 30 minute examinations (Unit 1 and Unit 2 worth 37.5% each) at the end of Year 11 and the single Controlled Assessment investigation (worth 25%) done in the Autumn Term of Year 11.

What could I go on to do? - Benefits of the course & qualification

Individuals who have studied Geography are very much in demand by both universities and employers because they have a unique set of skills that are transferable to many courses and professions. Geographers are both literate and numerate and have a good problem solving and research skills. Geographers achieve above average employment rates in Administration, Architecture (buildings and landscape), Cartography, Environmental and Ecological work Planning, Library and Information Management work, Marketing and Logistics, Meteorology, Oceanography, Planning, Surveying, Teaching, Transport and Distribution, Travel and Tourism and a wide range of other career areas including Law and Medicine.

New GCSE course from September 2016

The new GCSE courses are implemented from September 2016. It is the intention of the QEGS Geography Department to follow the AQA Geography (8035) specification. In parts the specification is similar to the one that we currently study, for example continuing to study natural hazards and the urban environment, but also contains increased emphasis on other areas such as physical landscapes in the UK and the challenges of water and energy resource management.