

# OPTIONS COURSE

## GEOGRAPHY (GCSE)

ACCREDITING AUTHORITY | AQA

### QUALIFICATION

GCSE in Geography

### FACULTY

**HUMANITIES**

### STAFF CONTACT

Mr C Foulk

### WHAT QUALITIES & SKILLS DO I NEED?

To study Geography you will need to be good at remembering large quantities of information and be willing to do plenty of revision. Geography is a written subject with some extended writing so you will need reasonable literacy levels. You should be comfortable with interpreting graphs, charts, maps and images. Above all, you will be the type of person who likes to question what they see around them using strategies like *who, what, where, when, why?*

### COURSE FOLLOWED

[GCSE Geography - AQA](#)

### WHAT WILL I DO ON THE COURSE?

There are 3 units:

#### Unit 1 (35%) - Living with the physical environment

- Natural hazards- *Earthquakes, volcanoes, tropical storms, climate change*
- The Living world - *Tropical rainforests, hot deserts, polar environments*
- Physical landscapes in the UK - *Rivers and coasts*

#### Unit 2 (35%) - Challenges in the human environment

- Urban issues and challenges - *Megacities of the world, sustainable urban living*
- Changing economic world- *Development and wealth, newly emerging countries*
- Challenge of resource management- *How many people can Earth support? (food, water, energy)*

#### Unit 3 (30%) - Geographical Applications

- Fieldwork skills and enquiry
- Decision making skills
- Map, graph and photo skills
- Computer software skills and statistical analysis

### HOW IS THE COURSE ORGANISED & ASSESSED?

The skills and applications for Unit 3 will be delivered through the content of Units 1 and 2. Each unit has its own exam with units 1 & 2 (1hr 30 min exams) worth 35% and Unit 3 (1hr 15 min exam) worth 30%.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## DOES IT ALLOW ME TO GO ONTO A-LEVELS AND UNIVERSITY?

Yes is the simple answer. In a recent study of the best universities (Russell group) in Britain, including Oxford and Cambridge, Geography was seen as being in the top 8 of most desirable subjects to have at A-level, regardless of your chosen university course.

## WHAT FIELDTRIPS WILL I GO ON?

You will all get go out for two days in total. One trip will be to an urban area like Nottingham or Sheffield and one day will be into rural Derbyshire for the day to do a rivers study.

For those of you who want to go even further, we offer a once in a life time trip to Iceland. This trip which gives you the opportunity to get up close and personal to a real volcano, geiser, go glacier walking, see the northern lights and much more. This Iceland trip is limited in terms of places and is always popular.

## HOW IS IT TOPICAL AND RELEVANT TO ME?

The world in which we live is ever-changing, and likely to change more in the next 50 years than ever before. Geography explains why; and helps to prepare you for those changes. It helps you understand the world in which you live, and what has shaped it. In the coming years climate change and its implications will be the biggest challenge humankind has ever faced. Growing population and the demand for resources will be another big issue. Geographers will be the people who understand and attempt to explain these. We will hold the key to living with this man made problem. "Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future." *Michael Palin.*

## WILL IT GET ME A JOB?

Geography is the number one qualification to have because of the number of transferable skills that you will learn. The skills are relevant in all types of business right up to management level and beyond. It is also highly regarded in the public sector in councils, development agencies and many other areas.

The possibilities are endless but a few career paths may include:

GIS specialist	Cartographer	Utilities manager	Diplomat
Transport manager	Location analyst	Regional developer	Risk assessor
Refugee advisor	Weather presenter	Charity coordinator	Disaster manager
Coastal manager	Civil engineer	Soil conservationist	Hydrologist
Travel agent	Tourism officer	Eco-tourism advisor	Tour guide
Media researcher	Estate manager	Forestry manager	Geologist
Pollution analyst	Conservation official	Environmental consultant	

## IS IT DIFFICULT?

Geography is a traditional academic qualification. It does require you to be able to remember large quantities of information. You must be prepared to put plenty of revision in throughout the course. There are quite heavy demands on your literacy, but also a whole host of other skills like ICT, data analysis, map/graph/photo interpretation and decision-making that you will need to develop. However, if you are interested in the subject and are willing to work hard then you will receive a warm welcome regardless of your ability.

