



# GEOGRAPHY

## GCSE

### OPTION SUBJECT – CATEGORY A (BACCALAUREATE SUBJECT)

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDEXCEL

AWARD CODE: (GEOGRAPHY B) 1GB0

#### WHY TAKE THIS COURSE?

Do you know why our climate is changing? Do you know what impact this might have on your future?

Do you know how to survive in a desert or why water is important to conserve and protect?

Do you want to know what makes a good place to live or why population is changing in different parts of the world?

Do you want to make decisions for yourself?

GCSE Geography can teach you how to do this, based on specific evidence.

If any of these questions interest you, or you want to just learn more about your world, GCSE Geography could be for you.

GCSE Geography will allow you to learn about the world you live in, to develop skills in research which will help in your other subjects and future careers. The course will also give you a chance to complete practical work outside the classroom, investigating your own surroundings independently, not just listening and reading in class. Students will undertake trips to conduct fieldwork for the controlled assessment task.

The GCSE Geography course will provide foundation knowledge for A level Geography, Geology, Environmental Science/Studies and Travel & Tourism. It may also prove useful for those wishing to study economics and business studies.

#### AIMS OF THE COURSE

The course provides students with the option to investigate the major issues that currently face the planet. It looks at why these issues exist and how they can be tackled in the future. The content of the course ranges from natural disasters and coastal issues to the use of global resources and how settlements are changing.

The lessons are enquiry based and students will get the chance to use resources such as the internet, up to date literature and in addition visiting local locations. Students will also get the opportunity to work independently and in a group.

#### COURSE STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

The course is subdivided into 3 separate components:

1. **Global Geographical Issues** – This component draws across physical and human processes and people-environment interactions to consider key contemporary global geographical issues. The component is divided into three sections:

**Topic 1: Hazardous Earth** – an understanding of the global circulation of the atmosphere and changing climate.

**Topic 2: Development dynamics** – an understanding of the scale of global inequality.

**Topic 3: Challenges of an urbanising world** – an overview of the causes and challenges of rapid urbanisation across the world.

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# GEOGRAPHY (CONT...)

## GCSE

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#### COURSE STRUCTURE AND CONTENT (CONTINUED...)

2. **UK Geographical Issues** – This component draws across physical and human processes and people-environment interactions to consider key contemporary geographical issues for the UK. The component is divided into three sections:

**Topic 4: The UK's evolving physical landscape** – an overview of the varied physical landscapes in the UK resulting from geology, geomorphic processes and human activity over time.

**Topic 5: The UK's evolving human landscape** – an overview of the changing and varied human landscape of the UK, including the socio-economic and political processes that influence it.

**Topic 6: Geographical investigations** – two investigations, including fieldwork and research, carried out in contrasting environments.

3. **People and Environment Issues: Making Geographical Decisions** – In this component, students will develop their knowledge and understanding of the processes and interactions between people and environment and investigate related issues at a variety of scales. This component has three sections:

**Topic 7: People and the biosphere** – an overview of the global distribution and characteristics of large-scale ecosystems, why the biosphere is important to human wellbeing and how humans use and modify it in order to obtain resources.

**Topic 8: Forests under threat** – a detailed study of tropical rainforests and the taiga, looking at processes and interactions and issues related to their biodiversity and to their sustainable use and management.

**Topic 9: Consuming energy resources** – a study of renewable and non-renewable energy, its supply and demand, access and energy security issues, its sustainable use and management.

#### ASSESSMENT

Components 1 and 2 are each worth 37.5% of the total GCSE grade and Component 3 is worth 25%. They are assessed as below:

**Global Geographical Issues:** One hour 30 minute externally assessed written exam.

**UK Geographical Issues:** One hour 30 minute externally assessed written exam.

**People and Environment Issues – Making Geographical Decisions:** One hour 30 minute externally assessed written exam.

#### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

An interest in Geography, a willingness to keep up with homework and you will need to be prepared to work independently on the fieldwork element in preparation for the component 2 exam, making use of the skills developed in your Geography lessons in previous years.