



Course Title

Exam Board

Geography GCSE

OCR B

Course Description

Geography is an exciting and dynamic course. The topics studied are contemporary and engaging providing students with an interest in different places, people and environments, whilst ensuring an appreciation of the geography of the UK in the 21st century. A wide range of topics are covered which include both the human and physical elements of the subject. Through the study of Our Natural World (Unit 1) learners will gain an appreciation of the natural world around them including tectonic and weather hazards, climate change, the UK's distinctive landscapes and the global ecosystems which support life on the planet. Unit 2 explores the complexities of People and Society through studying why more than half of the world's population live in urban areas, the dynamic nature of development, the UK in the 21st century and human reliance on key resources for survival and economic gain. Unit 3 is a skills based exam involving a decision making exercise which is based on the content and skills learnt from Units 1 and 2.

There are many opportunities for fieldwork across the course. Fieldwork is a compulsory part of the course and this is covered through a 2 day residential UK **field trip for all Geography students**. The field trip is often the highlight of the course and enables students to put their knowledge into practice and learn new skills. **Students are examined on their fieldwork.**

Geography GCSE allows students to actively engage in the processes of Geography, to develop as effective and independent learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds. Geographical and fieldwork skills ensure that learners become both adaptable and resilient to prepare them for the future.

Type of Assessment

The course is 100% exam examined through 3 separate exams.

- Our Natural World (Unit 1) 1 hour 15 minutes written paper
- People and Society (Unit 2) 1 hour 15 minutes written paper
- Geographical Exploration (Unit 3) 1 hour 30 minutes written paper

Special Requirements

Compulsory residential 2 day UK field trip.

Career and Progression Opportunities

Geography is highly regarded by both further education establishments and employers. Geography is a facilitating A Level subject which means it opens up more university options and choices if students study it at A Level, so taking it at GCSE enables the opportunity for further study. A Level Geography has a good uptake at Birchwood and many students continue to develop their knowledge this way. Geography is also a very employable subject due to the wide range of skills students gain throughout the course. Geography also has many cross curricular links helping students with their other subjects and developing their skills in ICT, literacy and numeracy. This subject gives students a well-rounded outlook and enables them to discover what is really happening in the world around them.

Link to the Syllabus

<http://www.ocr.org.uk>