

# Geography

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Why study Geography?

Geography is a broad-based academic subject which will open up options for you in your future. Employers and universities see Geography as a robust academic subject rich in skills, knowledge and understanding. As a subject linking the arts and the sciences, it is highly flexible in terms of what you can combine it with, both at GCSE and A Level. If you choose to take Geography on to university, there are literally hundreds of courses to choose from and the range of career areas accessed by graduates of Geography will probably surprise you. For example, Geography is an obvious choice for careers in sustainability and green issues, urban regeneration, energy supply, retail location, managing the effects of hazards and climate change. For careers in the world of business, an understanding of global economics forms an important part of Geography. If you are thinking of a career in law, human rights, international relations or welfare, then Geography gives you the opportunity to consider relevant issues such as: How do we measure development? What are the consequences of migration on societies?

### Why should I study AQA Geography GCSE?

This exciting and relevant course studies Geography in a balanced framework of physical and human themes and investigates the link between them.

Students will travel the world from their classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom (UK), higher income countries (HICs), newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs). Topics of study include climate change, hazard, biomes, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. Students are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

### Why is the course different to that which has been taught previously?

Due to the alignment of GCSE's across WeST, we will be changing exam boards from Edexcel to AQA.

### Is there any coursework?

In the AQA specification the requirement for coursework has been removed. Instead, students will be assessed in 3 exams at the end of the course.

### Do students still have the opportunity to undertake fieldwork?

Students are still required to undertake two fieldwork experiences: one in a physical environment and one in a human environment. Students will be examined on these fieldwork experiences as part of paper 3.

### How much extended writing is there?

Most communication is through the written word, raising the importance of good literacy skills. Subsequently, like all GCSEs, extended writing is embedded across all three of the exam papers in addition to marks awarded for SPaG. Command words include words such as suggest, explain, to what extent and discuss.

### How much reading is there?

Again, this being a content-heavy GCSE, there is a significant amount of reading to be undertaken.



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### How much homework is there?

Teachers will set a range of different homework tasks including low stakes quizzes, essay questions and additional research. Teachers in the department will set homework a minimum of once a week.

### Can I access the specification online?

You can access the specification using the following link: <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/geography/specifications/AQA-8035-SP-2016.PDF>

### What are the examination papers like?

Should you wish to see an example of an exam paper you can do so though accessing the following link:

- Paper one: <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/geography/AQA-80351-SQP.PDF>
- Paper two: <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/geography/AQA-80352-SQP.PDF>
- Paper three: <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/geography/AQA-80353-SQP.PDF>

### Which revision guides do you use to support learning?

There are several examples of different revision guides and workbooks to support the GCSE, including:

- GCSE 9-1 Geography AQA Revision Guide (with Online Ed) - Edition for 2021 exams & beyond: perfect revision for mocks and exams in 2021 and 2022 (CGP GCSE Geography 9-1 Revision) Paperback – 29 May 2019
- Grade 9-1 GCSE Geography AQA Exam Practice Workbook: unbeatable revision for mocks and exams in 2021 and 2022 (CGP GCSE Geography 9-1 Revision)
- My Revision Notes: AQA GCSE (9–1) Geography Paperback

### What additional support can I get?

In Geography we embed challenge within our lessons, enabling students to access the highest levels. In addition, we regularly timetable support sessions throughout the course.

### Are there tiered papers?

No. All GCSE Geography students will sit a common set of exams

### How are the classes set?

This is very much dependent upon the nature of the cohort of students that choose to take the subject and not finalised until after the option process.

