

Geography

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What will I learn on this course?

A: You will travel the world from the classroom, exploring how we live and interact with the **physical environment**. You'll discover more about the challenge of natural hazards and the living world, physical landscapes of the United Kingdom and human interaction with them. You'll also study the challenges in the **human environment**. You will develop an understanding of the factors that produce a diverse variety of human environments; the dynamic nature of these environments that change over time and place; the need for sustainable management; and the areas of current and future challenge and opportunity.

Please refer to the Options booklet and video presentation for information about the structure of the course. A more detailed specification can be found here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035/specification-at-a-glance>

Q: How is the course assessed?

A: Students follow the AQA GCSE Geography (8035) course. There are three written examinations at the end of Year 11:

- Unit 1 (1 hour 30mins) tests Physical Geography (3 topics)
- Unit 2 (1 hour 30mins) tests Human Geography (3 topics)
- Unit 3 (1 hour 15mins) tests Fieldwork and contains a Decision Making Exercise

Each examination contains different question types: multiple-choice, short answer, long answer, and extended essay responses. Geographical skills, along with spelling, punctuation and grammar, are assessed in all three examinations. Links to the 2018 examination papers are included below:

- Paper 1: <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/sample-papers-and-mark-schemes/2018/june/AQA-80351-QP-JUN18.PDF>
- Paper 2: <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/sample-papers-and-mark-schemes/2018/june/AQA-80352-QP-JUN18.PDF>
- Paper 3: <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/sample-papers-and-mark-schemes/2018/june/AQA-80353-QP-JUN18.PDF>

Q: What trips are there?

A: Fieldwork and trips are particularly important parts of the subject. Geography without fieldwork would be like science without experiments! Some of your long-term memories of school are likely to be made on Geography field trips. We aim to offer four trips at GCSE, two of which are compulsory:

- Year 10 – A day in east London to study the Olympic area and regeneration (compulsory)
- Year 11 – an investigation into river processes and flooding in Epping Forest (compulsory)

- International trip to the Azores – a group of rugged and wild, volcanic Portuguese islands
- A national trip is being considered perhaps to Northern Ireland or the Isle of Man. However, these trips can only be launched once it is safe to start travelling again.

Q: What subject(s) does Geography go well with?

A: All of them! Geography goes well with the Sciences and Mathematics as well as the Humanities, Languages and Arts. It is very flexible in terms of what it can be combined with both at GCSE and A Level. The top GCSE courses taken alongside Geography are: Triple Science, Statistics, History, Psychology, Languages, Business Studies or Economics, and English.

Q: Is Geography hard?

A: Yes, but you'll probably find this is true for many of your GCSEs. But if you enjoy it, you'll be motivated to work hard and should do well. In Geography you are taught by experienced teachers and we will support you to get the best grade possible. We have a strong strategy of revision support and offer lots of help and guidance. We know this works because GCSE Geographers get outstanding results.

Q: What can I do with Geography in the future? I don't want to be a Geography teacher and I can't think of any real-life Geographers...

A: Very few people actually have 'geographer' as their occupation and you won't see many job advertisements recruiting them. What many people do in their job is geography even if it isn't necessarily called that!

Geographers develop a wide range of skills during their studies. Geographers are able to critically evaluate data and imagery that you encounter in your life. Geographers are problem solvers, with an ability to see solutions as well as identify when problems might occur. Many industries are interested in this way of thinking and Geography is becoming increasingly central to society and to scientific thought.

Q: Will Geography help me to get a job in the future?

A: It's quite early for you to be thinking about careers. Some people change their mind a lot about the career they wish to pursue, even when they're older! Your main focus should be on the subjects you are good at and enjoy. But the answer is a resounding YES. Geography was recently named as one of the few recession-proof university degrees, meaning that Geography graduates' employability remained high, despite the economic downturn. Every single industry will need to prioritise sustainability in the very near future and Geographers are experts in sustainability.

Geography also allows you to explore questions about the planet and how it works, forming a solid foundation for lifelong learning, no matter what your future path may be...