



St Gregory the Great Catholic School – Secondary Phase

Geography (KS4)

Examination Board: AQA GCSE Geography: [Specification](#)



Course Description:

The course consists of 3 units of study:

- **Unit 1: Living with the physical environment.** This includes the challenge of natural hazards (earthquakes, volcanoes, tropical storms, weather hazards in the UK, climate change), the living world (tropical rainforests, cold environments) and physical environments (rivers and coasts) in the UK.
- **Unit 2: Challenges in the human environment.** This includes urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world and the challenge of resource management (food).
- **Unit 3: Geographical applications and geographical skills.** This includes a pre-release which will be based upon one area that the students have studied and will be a contemporary issue in Geography. This will also include the two days fieldwork where students will be examined on their knowledge of how to collect data.

All 3 units will involve the students developing their skills of locational knowledge and understanding and the ability to link human and physical processes to wider contexts throughout the course. This will build on the skills taught throughout Years 7-9 and will allow students to enhance and refine their skills at a more advanced level.

Assessment:

This qualification is assessed through three exam papers. All exams assess the full range of skills learnt throughout the course.

Paper 1: Living with the Physical environment 3.1.1 The challenge of natural hazards, 3.1.2 The living world, 3.1.3 Physical landscapes in the UK, 3.4 Geographical skills. The paper is 1 hour 30minutes and is worth 35% of the final grade.

Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment 3.2.1 Urban issues and challenges, 3.2.2 The changing economic world, 3.2.3 The challenge of resource management, 3.4 Geographical skills. The paper is 1 hour 30minutes and is worth 35% of the final grade.

Paper 3: Geographical Applications 3.3.1 Issue evaluation, 3.3.2 Fieldwork, 3.4 Geographical skills
The paper is 1 hour 15 minutes and is worth 30% of the final grade.

There is no coursework for this qualification; however, students will go on two days fieldwork to look at human and physical processes in the field. Day one will be to the coast to look at sand dune succession and vegetation type. Day two will look at how sustainable the new shopping centre is in Oxford. Both will involve students becoming independent learners who thrive as both leaders and group players.

Why Study Geography?

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, 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. Students will be encouraged to see their place in the world and understand how as the world around them changes the geographical processes, ideas and people will change with it. Geography's aim will be to create conscientious modern thinkers who have an understanding of not only their world but the world of others both now and in the future. They will become stewards of Planet Earth.

Further information on GCSE Geography can be obtained from Miss West- Head of Geography