



# GEOGRAPHY

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[www.geobytes.org.uk](http://www.geobytes.org.uk)

@ ST IVO

GCSE Geography  
 2019 - 2021

For a detailed overview of  
 GCSE Geography take a  
 look inside at what we  
 offer...

## THE GCSE - COURSE OUTLINE

The department will be following the AQA Geography GCSE course in September 2019. The AQA geography GCSE has been chosen for its exciting and interesting content, mixing the more traditional elements of geography combined with new ideas and approaches whilst balancing physical and human themes and enabling students to understand the ever changing relationships between people and the environment in which they live and the increasing challenges that we face. The specification also encourages students to understand their role in society, considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes and tackling global issues such as climate change, deforestation, weather hazards and sustainability.

The Exam Specification is divided into 3 units:

### Unit 1 - Living with the Physical Environment

- The Challenge of Natural Hazards
- The Living World
- Physical Landscapes of the UK

Content Includes:

- Tectonic Hazards
- Weather Hazards
- Climate Change
- Ecosystems
- Tropical Rainforests
- Hot Deserts
- UK Physical Landscapes
- Coastal Landscapes in the UK
- River Landscapes in the UK

### Unit 2 - Challenges in the Human Environment

- Urban issues and challenges
- The changing economic world
- The challenge of resource management

Content Includes:

- Urban issues and Challenges (including rapid growth and management of in LICs and the UK.)
- Changing Economic World (including global variations in development, economic growth in LICs and the UK's changing economy)
- Resource Management and Water

### Unit 3 - Geographical Applications

- Issue Evaluation (pre-released material)
- Fieldwork / Geographical Enquiry

Content Includes:

- Physical Geography enquiry and fieldwork
- Human Geography enquiry and fieldwork
- Geographical Skills
- Decision Making / Evaluation of issues

“Geography is the subject  
 that holds the key to our  
 future” Michael Palin

### ASSESSMENT

There is NO controlled assessment / coursework in GCSE Geography. The assessment is linear and there will be 3 exams at the end of Year 11:

- Paper 1 - *Living with the Physical Environment* - 35% (1 hour 30 minutes)
- Paper 2 - *Challenges in the Human Environment* - 35% (1 hour 30 minutes)
- Paper 3 - *Geographical Applications* - 30% (1 hour 15 minutes)

There is no tiered entry - all students will sit the same papers.

The questions will include multiple choice, short answer, levels of response and extended prose.





“ GCSE Geography is relevant and interesting, examining issues & conflicts. It helps you understand what is going on in the world ”

## FIELDWORK

The department has a strong tradition of fieldwork in all key stages and it is seen as a vital component of the GCSE course providing students with an opportunity to consolidate and extend their geographical understanding. As a compulsory part of the course, as specified by the exam board, GCSE students will carry out two fieldwork investigations. One is a physical geography coastal study at Dunwich (undertaken towards the end of Year 9 to reduce the impact on Year 10 teaching) and the second a human fieldwork study of rural-urban development in St Ives and their understanding of the geographical enquiry process will be tested as part of the Paper 3 written exam “Geographical Applications”.

As well as students undertaking physical and human fieldwork at local sites, a residential trip to Iceland is offered as an option for Year 10 Geographers, to broaden their geographical understanding, running every July.



“Geography explains the past, illuminates the present and prepares us for the future. What could be more important than that?” - Michael Palin.

Dear Parent

Geography is not only up-to-date and relevant, it is one of the most exciting, adventurous and valuable subjects to study today. So many of the world's current problems boil down to geography, and need the geographers of the future to help us understand them.

Global warming, sustainable food production, natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis, the spread of disease, the reasons for migration and the future of energy resources are just some of the great challenges facing the next generation of geographers.

A knowledge of geography, instilled into me by two excellent teachers, has enriched my life and encouraged me to take on long and sometimes difficult journeys. Geography has stimulated my mind and given me the attitude to go out and see for myself, rather than be told by others.

Choosing geography at school can open the doors to a university degree, either specifically in geography or by combining geography with other A Levels to gain a place on a degree programme in another subject. An A Level in geography is recognised for its academic 'robustness' and, most importantly, it also helps young people into the world of work.

We know this is true because so many employers prize the knowledge and skills that studying geography can provide, be it knowing how the world works, planning research and report writing, working in a team, using new technologies and communication skills – and much more. You will find geographers working in a wide range of jobs, from the City to planning, working in the environment to travel and tourism, or in international charities or retail. As you can see overleaf, studying geography can help young people achieve careers that are professionally and financially rewarding and also enjoyable.

Last year I was delighted to hear that more than 230,000 pupils studied a GCSE or A Level in geography. So, alongside the other subjects that your son or daughter might study, I would encourage them to choose a GCSE or A Level in geography. It meant a lot to me and it could mean a lot to them.

With best wishes

Michael Palin, CBE  
President

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## How will Geography GCSE help me?

Geography is useful in many ways. As preparation for the world of work or further education, or simply as an enjoyable and interesting subject giving a valuable insight into the interactions between us and the world we live in. Like most other GCSE subjects, there are very few jobs which demand a qualification in Geography, however it is widely accepted as a highly regarded subject which helps you to:

- (i) Talk with interest about a variety of topics
- (ii) Understand the major problems and issues in the world
- (iii) Understand people and how they interact with the environment
- (iv) Acquire a variety of useful transferable job skills

## Examples of Geography related jobs / careers

- Journalist
- Accountant
- Landscape architect
- Oceanographer
- Librarian
- Pilot
- Teacher
- Holiday Rep
- Retail Manager
- Human Rights Specialist
- Lawyer
- Weather Forecaster
- Town Planner
- Travel Agent
- Estate Agent
- Housing Officer
- Marketing Specialist
- Chartered Surveyor
- Armed Forces
- Environmental Health
- Emergency Planner
- Social Worker
- Aid worker
- Air Traffic Controller
- Geologist
- Conservationist
- Banker
- Civil Servant
- Volcanologist
- Public Relations Officer
- Coastal Engineer
- Lecture

*THE LIST IS ENDLESS..... Geography can open many doors due to its transferable skills.*



As a geographer, by the end of your GCSE you will have received training in, and developed proficiency in a variety of transferable skills (including literacy, numeracy, graphicacy, ICT, independent research, decision making, problem solving and team work. These are all skills which are essential in many careers and as such make geographers highly employable. It is an excellent qualification which can lead to employment in most types of jobs and help you qualify for entrance to many further courses.

## Geography's relevance to further study and careers

Dear Parents or Guardians

Having studied geography myself, and now having the privilege of writing and presenting TV programmes about the geography of Britain and places further afield, I know the real benefit that studying this subject can bring.

Geography is an academically robust subject which spans the social and physical sciences and promotes a lifelong interest and fascination in how the world works.

It is part of the academic group of English Baccalaureate GCSE subjects and the Russell Group of universities has recognised A Level geography as one of their preferred 'facilitating subjects'; which supports an application into a wide range of undergraduate courses.

The knowledge and transferable skills that geographers gain from their degree studies are highly relevant to the workplace and I am delighted to say that geography graduates experience some of the lowest levels of graduate unemployment. You will find geographers working in every sector of the economy including the City, local businesses, not-for-profit organisations, leading highly relevant research or as key decision makers in local and national government.

Studying geography also helps us to understand many of the issues we face in Britain and globally, such as how we might respond to the impact of climate change or be better prepared for natural hazards. It is the new research undertaken by geographers that is informing the debate about these challenges and helping us to navigate through the world's geographically complex people, places and environments.

With rising numbers of candidates studying geography at GCSE, A Level and university there is no better time to be studying this enjoyable, exciting and highly relevant subject.

Geography is a subject that has mattered to me and has the potential to matter to everyone. So, alongside their other academic interests, I would encourage your son or daughter to choose to study a GCSE or A level in geography and I do hope they will enjoy and be successful in their future studies.

With best wishes

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## THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF STUDYING GEOGRAPHY

A report by the Department for Education and the Institute for Fiscal Studies shows that ..

- **Employment:** Five years after graduation, geography graduates have an above average likelihood of gaining employment. Geographer employment rates outperform other disciplines, including politics, physics and history.
- **Earnings:** Geography graduate earnings outperform other subjects, including technology, biosciences and history. Men 2% more, women 10% more than average graduate salaries

“ The study of geography is about more than just memorizing places on a map. It's about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures that exists across continents. And in the end, it's about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together. ”

- President Barack Obama

### DEPARTMENT ACHIEVEMENTS

The Geography Department enjoys outstanding academic and teaching success and our uptake at GCSE reflects this (we currently have 180 students studying Geography in Year 10 and 172 in Year 11). Many students who follow the GCSE course have also chosen to pursue it further at A Level with a number of students each year going on to study Geography at university level.

### OTHER DEPARTMENT SUCCESSES:

We have been presented with a number of national awards, including the Secondary Geography Quality Mark (Geographical Association) and Centre of Excellence Status, with successful re-designation of this award and status granted in Sept 2017 for the next 3 years.

Our Centre of Excellence status recognises the work we are doing to disseminate good practice in geography locally and nationally, providing professional support and ideas in a wider context beyond the department. Further to these we have been working as part of the Princes Teaching Institute Schools Programme and we successfully achieved the PTI mark for Geography in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017.



## ST IVO GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT



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