



Geography FAQs

What are the exams like in Geography?

Each of the three papers is made up of a series of multiple choice, short mark (1, 2, 3 and 4 mark questions) and extended writing questions; on Papers 1 and 2 the maximum mark tariff for an extended writing question is 8 marks and on Paper 3 it is 12 marks. Many of the questions also require you to use a resource (for example a map, photo, graph or table) to help answer the question.

Is there any coursework in GCSE geography? What about fieldwork?

There is no coursework, however fieldwork is an integral part of the study of geography and therefore as part of the GCSE you will undertake both physical and human fieldwork. Your fieldwork skills are then assessed through a series of questions in Paper 2. For your physical fieldwork we undertake a river study which will involve you getting in the river and measuring characteristics such as width, depth and velocity! For your human fieldwork we investigate variations in quality of life in East Finchley and carry out data collection which includes environmental quality surveys, pedestrian counts and questionnaires. Fieldwork is carried out in the Spring and Summer Terms of Year 10. Hopefully current restrictions will have been removed by then so that we will be able to carry out fieldwork, otherwise alternative arrangements (in line with guidance from the exam board) will be made.

What are the geography lessons like?

As a department we work collaboratively to ensure consistency across and between geography groups and therefore lessons. We take pride in ensuring that a variety of learning and teaching methods are delivered within our lessons including retrieval quizzes, individual and small group work, opportunities for discussion and sharing ideas, as well as the use of mini whiteboards, videos and text resources. All of the tasks and activities which you are used to at KS3 will continue as these are at the root of good Geography learning.

How will the department support me in terms of revision and preparation for assessments, mock exams and my final GCSE exams?

We regularly use retrieval quizzes and other methods of retrieval practice within our lessons; this ensures that every lesson we review prior learning and helps to ensure that key geographical knowledge is built up in our long term memory. We have a wealth of revision materials which include Personalised Learning Checklists, Knowledge Organisers, Bare Bones Sheets, Revision Booklets, glossaries of key terms and exam practice questions which are readily available to you on your GCSE google classroom.

Can I choose both Geography and History for GCSE?

Yes absolutely! If you enjoy both subjects then we would definitely recommend taking both. Many students in Year 10 and Year 11 are studying Geography and History for their GCSEs. The subjects complement each other and have many transferable skills.