



OPTION SUBJECT (EBACC) GCSE GEOGRAPHY

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Examination Board	AQA - Graded 1 - 9

Geography permeates all aspects of our everyday life. It affects us all - from our journey to school and the factors of current economics that make us decide whether to drive or walk, to hiking on a glacier in Iceland and seeing how climate change has affected glaciation.

Geography is classified as a facilitator subject by the Russell Group of Universities with Geography opening many doors to A Levels, University and beyond. Geography is also a highly regarded academic GCSE qualification; it combines well with most subjects and has strong cross-links with Science, Business Studies and Economics. The majority of students find that many of the examination questions are 'common sense' as they look at current issues widely reported by the media.

Keeping the course relevant to the students, using up to date case studies and topicality, are paramount in the Geography department's ethos. Every effort is made to not only help the students achieve the highest grade possible but to also help facilitate students towards their goal in life whatever that might be.

ASSESSMENT

The programme of study in Years 10 and 11 is based on termly and half-termly units. The examination consists of three components:

Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment

Topics you will learn for this paper

The challenge of natural hazards (Volcanoes, Earthquakes, Cyclone etc.) Physical landscapes in the UK (Coasts and Glacial landscapes), The living world (Ecosystems, Rainforests and Cold environments).

How it is assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
- 88 marks (including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology (SPGST))
- 35% of GCSE

Question types: multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response, extended writing

Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment

Topics you will learn for this paper

Urban issues and challenges (Population, Urban studies), The changing economic world (economics, development, UK Economy), The challenge of resource management (resources, energy, water).

How it is assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
- 88 marks (including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology (SPGST))
- 35% of GCSE

Question types: multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response, extended writing

Paper 3: Geographical Applications

What is assessed

An issue evaluation (Decision-making task), Fieldwork (questions based on field trip), Geographical skills (maps, stats and data use)

How it is assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour
- 76 marks (including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology (SPGST))
- 30% of GCSE
- Pre-release resources made available from 15 March in the year of the exam

Question types: multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response, extended writing