



## **GCSE Geography**

There has never been a better or more important time to study geography. With growing interest in issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation and social cohesion, geography is one of the most relevant subjects a young person can choose to study. The Geography Department tries to develop pupils' passion for the world. Studying geography provides knowledge and transferable skills that reward them personally and advance them professionally. Geography at St Mary's involves a variety of IT, field and classroom analytical approaches including techniques such as Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and fieldwork, which are an integral part to most courses.

### **Extra-curricular activities and visits**

The most effective place to experience true geography is outside the classroom. Therefore, the Geography Department at St. Mary's offers a wide and varied range of fieldtrips and we continue to do this into GCSE. Year 10 pupils in the summer term visit the Flyde coast to investigate the effectiveness of coastal engineering strategies and Liverpool to investigate the effectiveness of urban regeneration of Liverpool 1 and Albert Dock.

In addition to this, every other year the Geography department offers an international trip to pupils. Previous trips have included Iceland and Italy. St Mary's is also an accredited centre for the Duke of Edinburgh's award which is run through the geography department.

### **Facilities**

Geography is taught in two designated classrooms based within in the humanities faculty. We enjoy a wide range of resources including interactive whiteboards, visualisers, a well-resourced stock of current textbooks and the use of nearby computer suites.

### **Assessment**

Pupils are assessed on knowledge of locations, places, processes, environments and different scales Along with their understanding of: concepts and how they are used in relation to places, environments and processes; the interrelationships between places, environments and processes.

We also ensure pupils are able to apply their knowledge and understanding to interpret, analyse and evaluate geographical information and issues to make judgements. Here at St Mary's we ensure that all pupils are prepared for adult life therefore we also assess pupils in their ability to; select, adapt and use a variety of skills and techniques to investigate questions and issues and communicate findings.

Continuous assessment is used to assess pupil progress throughout the course, with summative assessments built in to prepare them for key stage four and beyond. Our pupils are set targets at the end of key pieces of work and given the opportunity work on these targets before revisiting that particular skill.

### **Year 10 & Year 11 course:**

#### **G.C.S.E. AQA Geography (8035)**

The GCSE, course develops a broad spectrum of knowledge and understanding. They discover, for example; why our human and physical landscapes appear as they are, how they form, and how they inter-relate at various scales. How and why patterns of human and physical features differ from place to place. The differences and inequality within the human world; especially the economic, social and political causes of inequality and economic development. The importance of different spatial scales — global to local — and time scales for physical and human processes. The way particular places and regions have evolved to be distinctive. How to observe, describe, analyse, represent, interpret and report information about the world and how it operates as an integrated system.

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## **Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment**

### **What's assessed**

- A. The challenge of natural hazards
- B. The living world
- C. Physical landscapes in the UK
- Geographical skills

### **How it's assessed**

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

### **Questions**

- Section A: answer all questions (33 marks)
- Section B: answer all questions (25 marks)
- Section C: answer any two questions from questions 3, 4 and 5 (30 marks)
- Question types: multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response, extended prose

## **Paper 2: Living with the Human Environment**

### **What's assessed**

- A. Urban issues and challenges
- B. The changing economic world
- C. The challenge of resource management
- Geographical skills

### **How it's assessed**

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
- 88 marks (including 3 marks for SPaG)
- 35% of GCSE

### **Questions**

- Section A: answer all questions (33 marks)
- Section B: answer all questions (30 marks)
- Section C: answer question 3 and one from questions 4, 5 or 6 (25 marks)
- Question types: multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response, extended prose

## **Paper 3: Geographical Applications**

### **What's assessed**

- A. Issue evaluation
- B. Fieldwork
- Geographical skills

### **How it's assessed**

- Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
- 76 marks (including 6 marks for SPaG)
- 30% of GCSE
- Pre-release resources booklet made available 12 weeks before Paper 3 exam

### **Questions**

- Section A: answer all questions (37 marks)
  - Section B: answer all questions (39 marks)
  - Question types: multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response, extended prose
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