

A Student's Guide to GCSE GEOGRAPHY

STUDY People, Places and Processes. Study.....LIFE!

Why Geography?

There has never been a more important time to study Geography. The world we live in is set to change more in the next 50 years than it ever has done before. Geography explains why and helps to prepare you for these changes.

This exciting course will enable you to investigate links between the human and physical world. Geography also develops a broad range of transferable skills such as information analysis critical evaluation.

What will I study in Geography?

- In Geography we have opted to follow the **AQA syllabus**. There are **three modules, each with a formal examination at the end of the course**
- **Paper 1 - Living with the Physical Environment (35%)**
 - o Tectonic Hazards, Climate Change, Ecosystems, Extreme Environments, Rivers and Coasts.
- **Paper 2 – Challenges in the Human Env. (35%)**
 - o Urban Issues and Challenges, Development and Globalisation, Resource Management and Energy.
- **Paper 3 – Geographical Applications (30%)**
 - o Fieldwork skills: sampling, data presentation, analysis and evaluation. Geographical issue evaluation.

How will I be taught?

Lessons are both **varied** and exciting and the department creates a positive and friendly environment within the classroom. We use a diverse range of teaching resources (as with Y7-9) to ensure that lessons are **interesting, thought provoking and relevant**.

There are plenty of **fieldwork opportunities** at GCSE. Fieldwork is a vital part of Geography and you will complete 2 compulsory fieldwork days in Y10 and 11:

- Day 1: Human Geography at Riverside, Norwich.
- Day2: Physical Geography at Southwold

There is also the opportunity to visit Iceland as part of an optional fieldtrip (see overleaf).

Proven Track Record

We are proud of our continued popularity, consistency and standards. In 2019, **85% of students achieved between a grade 9 and a 4**. This is in line with the school and significantly above the National averages. The vast majority of **students attain or often exceed** their targets within the subject and many go on to study Geography at A-Level and in higher education.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course will appeal to you if you:

- **Enjoy** studying a subject that is relevant to your own life and experiences.
- Want the opportunity to carry out **practical work** as well as work within the classroom.
- Wish to **study a broad discipline** – Geography combines equally well with the 'Science' and 'Humanitarian' based subjects.
- Wish to develop **real life skills** that are attractive to employers in a range of fields.



ICELAND



Iceland is known as the land of fire and ice. It is a truly amazing landscape. In previous trips we have visited a range of places, doing a range of things. We are planning another Iceland trip as soon as the situation allows. This is an optional trip open to all GCSE and A-Level Geographers. In previous trips we have done some of the following:

- Experienced stunning scenery including mighty glaciers, moonlike volcanoes, cascading (sometimes frozen) waterfalls.
- Walked along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge – the place where the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates are tearing apart...
- Hiked up on to the Solheimajokull glacier
- Visited geysirs and a geothermal power station to learn how Iceland harnesses this natural energy source...
- Visited an amazing iceberg lagoon and watch as blue icebergs are carried out to sea...
- Taken a dip in the milky blue geothermal waters of the iconic Blue Lagoon....
- On occasions, we have also witnessed the stunning Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights)

If you have any further questions regarding geography GCSE at Notre Dame High School, please do not hesitate to contact us at the school. Email: apritchard@ndhs.org.uk; afullam1@ndhs.org.uk; rwhittle@ndhs.org.uk; MTiradoDiez@ndhs.org.uk. You can also follow us on twitter:

@NDHS_Geography #everydayisafielddrip

