

Curriculum Overview 2019-2020

Geography

Intention:

Geography at Beacon High is focused on creating Global Citizens. Our aim is to secure the skills that students need to interact with the world around them.

Geography is a subject which relies on a range of skills including observation, investigation, critical thinking, making connections, communication and discussion. Students will need literacy skills to critically discuss source information, and also require numeracy skills in order to create and interpret maps, graphs and data. The course requires students to be independent learners who have the inclination to extend their own learning beyond the classroom. Geography is concerned with real world and current issues so students must be aware of these.

Above all, students will need to be curious about the earth, and be able to apply ideas to new and changing settings.

Implementation at Key Stage 3:

Below gives an overview of the curriculum for this academic year:

Year 7: Focuses on atlas skills and knowledge about the world which is built on in subsequent years. Topics studied in this year include:

- Geographical Bedrock
- Maths in Geography
- A water filled world

Year 8: At this stage, students have a good general knowledge on which to build. This allows for more of a focus on developing key skills such as discussion. Topics in year 8 include:

- Climate change
- Extreme environments – Poles and Deserts
- The coastal zone

Year 9: Students in this year study topics at GCSE standard, focusing on developing detailed description, explanation and evaluation skills. Year 9 topics include:

- The Rainforest ecosystem
- Tectonic processes – Earthquakes
- Changing urban environments and sustainable cities

Implementation at Key Stage 4:

Course Title: GCSE Geography

Awarding Body: AQA

Why study Geography?

The GCSE Geography course is optional. Geography is an exciting course which allows students to study both physical and human themes and investigate the links between them.

The specification is relevant and topical, focusing on current events and global priorities.

The Geography GCSE focuses on the changing world and students are encouraged to understand their role in society by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

Geography is one of the best subjects to develop your enquiry skills.

Course Outline:

Geography at GCSE builds on the knowledge, skills and understanding developed in the Lower School. There is no tiered entry; all students sit the same 3 exams giving them the opportunity to achieve any grade from 1-9.

A wide variety of topics are studied, including climate change, poverty, natural features and processes and sustainable resource use. There is also a fieldwork element included in the course and a strong focus on developing geographical and analytical skills.

The course consists of three sections within Geography, assessed in three papers.

Overview of Key Stage 4:

AQA (1-9) Geography 8035

Students all follow a linear course which is assessed by three terminal examinations at the end of Year 11. Two of the papers are worth 35% each of the overall qualification, and one is worth 30%. In order to complete Paper 3: Geographical Applications, students will be required to undertake field work, investigating both human and physical environments. Paper 3 also includes a pre-release section for which students receive the information 12 weeks prior to the exam.

The course consists of three sections within Geography, assessed in three papers.

Paper	Content	Weighting
Living with the Physical Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 3.1.1 Section A: The challenge of natural hazards● 3.1.2 Section B: Physical landscapes in the UK	35%

- 3.1.3 Section C: The living world

Challenges in the Human Environment

- 3.2.1 Section A: Urban issues and challenges 35%
- 3.2.2 Section B: The changing economic world
- 3.2.3 Section C: The challenge of resource management

Geographical applications

- 3.3.1 Section A: Issue evaluation 30%
- 3.3.2 Section B: Fieldwork
- 3.4 Geographical skills

Geographical skills including map, graph, data and diagram interpretation are assessed in all three of the above sections.