

## **G.C.S.E. Geography [Syllabus AQA, Specification A] 2009-10**

The GCSE syllabus selected provides the opportunity to study a wide range of geographical topics. Students will acquire knowledge and understanding of a variety of places, environments and geographical patterns. They will become aware of the magnitude of tectonic forces and the potential destructiveness of natural hazards. They will appreciate the ways in which people and environments interact and the need to make development sustainable. They will develop an understanding of the significance of people's values and attitudes in making decisions about environmental management. They will begin to appreciate the dynamic nature of geography and its significance to them as global citizens.

General principles will be supported by examples at local, national and global scales so that detailed knowledge is acquired.

The students will develop and extend their ability to interpret maps, photographs and statistical data. They will be guided in using ICT to research and publish information.

There are three assessment components.

1. **People and the Natural Environment** This examines physical geography topics such as tectonic activity, earthquakes and volcanoes, river, coastal and glacial processes and landforms. It includes a section on geographical skills related to Ordnance Survey map work, photographs and other resources.
2. **People and the Human Environment** This examines human geography topics such as settlement, economic activities managing resources and development.

These two components are tested at the end of the course in two examinations

3. **Coursework (25% of total marks)** This enables the student to undertake a geographical investigation with support and guidance. It involves local fieldwork to gather the necessary data and this is supervised. The students will produce their own individual report of approximately 2,500 words.

**The last cohort of students studying this syllabus will be examined in June 2010. The new AQA Specification A** provides an engaging approach to geography highlighting a number of contemporary concerns and issues such as climate change, hazard management, economic progress, urban regeneration and the management of world resources. Coursework is in the form of a Controlled Assessment representing 25% of the total marks. The topics are set by AQA. Data is collected from fieldwork and then the write up takes place under direct supervision in class.

The topics selected from the new range of options are:

**Physical geography:** The Restless Earth; Ice on the Land; the Coastal Zone.

**Human Geography:** Changing Urban Environment; Globalisation, Tourism.

Questions based on the use of OS maps and other skills may appear in any section on either paper.

### Year 10 scheme of work

During the first year of the GCSE course one topic is studied from the People and the Natural Environment component and two topics from the People and the Human Environment component. In addition time is spent learning geographical skills and Ordnance Survey map reading.

Coursework is based on a field day in Wokingham. It is completed and submitted in Year 11.

#### Tectonic activity

<p>The earth's crust is unstable and creates hazards.</p> <p>The interaction between people and the environments and hazards created by tectonic activity.</p>	<p>The global distribution of plates. Characteristic features and formation of earthquakes, volcanoes and fold mountains.</p> <p>A case study of the Mt. Pinatubo eruption and the Kobe earthquake including the primary and secondary effects and the short, medium and long term responses.</p> <p>Differences in responses between urban and rural areas and between MEDC's and LEDC's.</p> <p>Why do people live in danger zones? Description and explanation of human activity in the Alps as an example of a range of young fold mountains.</p>
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#### Agriculture

<p>Farming as a system</p> <p>Agricultural activity varies from place to place.</p> <p>Agricultural activity is influenced by many factors.</p> <p>Agricultural change can have both advantages and disadvantages</p>	<p>The inputs, processes and outputs of a farm system.</p> <p>Physical and human factors are examined. An overview of types of farming in the U.K.</p> <p>Case studies of five different types of farming.</p> <p>Rising world population = increased demand for food</p> <p>Change in LEDCs – The Green Revolution, irrigation and Appropriate Technology.</p> <p>Change in MEDCs – Agribusiness and CAP in the EU has led to surplus food. Now more concern for the environment and organic farming.</p> <p>Sustainability is stressed. Farmers must conserve the soil and be countryside stewards.</p>
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## Settlement

Settlements vary in site, size, function and structure.	This study involves changes over time.
Urbanisation is a global phenomena	Urban morphology models of a M.E.D.C and a L.E.D.C. city. The characteristics of the urban zones. Definition and causes of urbanisation. The problems of urbanisation: social, economic and environmental issues in the CBD and inner city of M.E.D.C's eg Cardiff Bay. The shanty towns in L.E.D.C.'s eg Rocinha, Rio. Solutions to the problems, including an awareness of the planning process and the practice of encouraging locals to have a voice. Urban sprawl in M.E.D.C's and contemporary efforts to manage growth. Suburbanised villages eg Lisvane, Cardiff

## Assessment

Internal exams are sat in January and May. The questions are modelled on past GCSE questions and marked accordingly.

## Year 11 Scheme of work

During the second year of the GCSE course two topics are studied from the People and the Natural Environment component and one topic from the People and the Human Environment component. In addition time is spent learning geographical skills and Ordnance Survey map reading. The summer term is dedicated to revision and development of the students' examination technique.

**The departmental deadline for the Coursework Investigation draft is October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and for the final document 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2009.**

## Coastal landscapes and processes

The earth's crust is modified by coastal processes that result in distinctive landforms.	A study of wave action and processes of erosion. The formation of landforms of erosion and deposition. The recognition of coastal features on O.S. maps. Case study of the Dorset coast.
The interaction between people and coastal environments.	The social, environmental and political problems caused by coastal erosion and tourism. Coastal management and defence with reference to Dorset. Sustainable development of the coast.

### Glacial landscapes and processes

<p>The earth's crust is modified by glacial processes that result in distinctive landforms.</p> <p>The interaction between people and glacial environments.</p>	<p>Weathering, erosion and deposition processes. The characteristic landforms of upland and lowland glaciated landscapes. Examples from the Lake District, Cumbria. The recognition of landforms on O.S.maps.</p> <p>The human uses of an upland glaciated environment. Case study of the Alps.</p> <p>The management of glaciated landscapes experiencing pressure from tourism. The conflicts of different interest groups.</p>
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### Managing Resources

<p>Management of resources is crucial to sustainable development.</p> <p>Tourism in M.E.D.C's and L.E.D.C's and its consequences.</p>	<p>What is a resource and why has the demand for them increased?</p> <p>The consequences of increased resource use especially on non-renewable resources. Achieving sustainable development through conservation, resource substitution, recycling, pollution control and the use of renewable energy. This includes the study of wind as an example. The issue of global warming is addressed.</p> <p>Different environments favour tourism. Case study of The Lake District National Park and the Masai Mara, Kenya.</p> <p>The consequences of tourism in M.E.D.C's and L.E.D.C.'s. The need for stewardship and conservation and the growth of green tourism is considered and exemplified.</p>
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### Assessment

Two examination papers will be sat in January (internal, Mock) and June (external, GCSE) 2010.

**Paper 1 People and the Natural Environment** tests the topics: Tectonic Activity; Coastal landscapes and processes; Glacial landscapes and processes; geographical skills.

**Paper 2 People and the Human Environment** tests the topics Settlement, Agriculture and Managing Resources.

**Coursework** accounts for 25% of the final grade.