

GCSE Geography

Our GCSE Geography curriculum, following the AQA specification, offers pupils an in-depth understanding of the world around them—focusing on the dynamic interactions between people, places, and environments. Designed to foster critical thinking and a deeper awareness of global issues, the course equips pupils with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate an ever-changing world.

The curriculum explores a range of exciting topics, from physical geography, such as rivers, coasts, and ecosystems, to human geography, covering urbanisation, economic development, and resource management. Students are encouraged to apply their learning to real-world scenarios, enhancing their ability to analyse and interpret geographical data.

Throughout the course, pupils develop key skills in fieldwork, map reading, data interpretation, and decision-making—preparing them not only for their GCSE exam but for further study and future careers in geography-related fields.

We aim to inspire curiosity about the world and help pupils appreciate the importance of sustainable development and global citizenship. With a blend of classroom-based learning, field trips, and hands-on investigations, our AQA Geography curriculum ensures that students are both informed and engaged in their geographical studies.

Year 10
GCSE Geography Curriculum Map (AQA)

Term	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Topic	Natural Hazards Tectonic Hazards Tropical Storms Extreme Weather	Climate Change The Living World	The Living World Rivers	Coasts	Urban Issues and Challenges – Rio	Urban Issues and Challenges – Rio Urban Issues and Challenges – Fieldwork
Overview	What are natural hazards? Categorising natural hazards. Plate tectonic theory. Distribution of earthquakes and volcanoes. Plate margins. Case studies: Nepal and New Zealand – primary and secondary effect. Immediate and long term responses.	Evidence of climate change. Causes of climate change. Effects of climate change. Managing climate change – mitigation and adaptation. Introduction to ecosystems – key features.	Recap Cold Environments Unit of work completed in Year 9. Overview of UK landscapes. Long and cross profiles of rivers. Fluvial processes. Formation of erosional landforms. Formation of erosional/depositional landforms. Formation of depositional landforms. Case	Wave types Coastal processes Influence of rock type. Formation of erosional landforms. Formation of depositional landforms. Case Study: Landforms on the Dorset Coast. Coastal Management Strategies. Case Study: Coastal management in Swanage.	Exams. Growth of urban areas. Case Study: Rio. Location and importance. Causes of growth. Social and Economic Opportunities of urban growth. Managing the growth of squatter settlements.	Challenges of providing services. Reducing unemployment and crime. Managing environmental issues. Distribution of population and cities in UK. Case Study London. Location and Importance. Impacts of migration. Social, economic and environmental opportunities. Social and Economic Challenges. Fieldwork.

	Management strategies to reduce the effects of hazards. Global Atmospheric Circulation Distribution / Formation of tropical storms. Typhoon Haiyan – primary and secondary effects, long-term / short term responses. Management strategies to reduce the impact of tropical storms. Overview of extreme weather. Case Study: Cold Weather 2010	Distribution of Biomes. Characteristics of the Tropical rainforest. Tropical rainforest case study: Malaysia – causes and impacts of deforestation. Value of rainforests. Management strategies in the rainforest.	Study: The River Tees. Factors that influence the risk of flooding. Flood hydrographs. Fluvial Management Strategies. Case Study: Boscastle.			
Skills	Map skills Longitude and latitude Choropleth map. Decision making Evaluating. Frequency	Research. Compound graph. Climate graphs. Map Skills. Skills-pod: Mean	Storm Hydrograph. Identifying landforms from photos Annotating diagrams/photos.	Identifying landforms from photos Annotating diagrams/photos. OS map skills	Maths skills Graphs. Map skills Decision making and evaluating. Proportional	Graphs. Map skills Choropleth map. Compound graph. Fieldwork techniques

	Skills-pod: Interpreting Photos & magnitude		OS map skills Histograms Skills-pod: Histogram & OS Maps	Skills-pod: Interpreting photos & OS Maps	Symbols Skills-pod: Proportional Symbols	Skills-pod: Isoline maps & Dispersion graphs.
Key Vocab	Plate tectonics, convergent boundary, divergent boundary, transform boundary, earthquake, volcano, tsunami, seismic waves, Richter scale, focus, epicenter. Tropical storm, hurricane, typhoon, cyclone, eye, storm surge, Saffir-Simpson scale, Coriolis effect, evacuation. Extreme weather, drought, flooding, heatwave, blizzard, climate change, jet stream, anticyclone, storm, flash flood.	Climate change, greenhouse gases, global warming, carbon footprint, fossil fuels, deforestation, mitigation, adaptation, renewable energy, carbon emissions, sea level rise, melting ice caps, extreme weather, sustainability, carbon capture. Ecosystem, biodiversity, food chain, food web, biome, tropical rainforest, desert, tundra, nutrient cycle, deforestation,	Ecosystem, biodiversity, food chain, food web, biome, tropical rainforest, desert, savanna, tundra, nutrient cycle, deforestation, sustainable management, habitat, conservation, producer, consumer, decomposer, adaptation, interdependence, Drainage basin, watershed, source, confluence, tributary, floodplain, meander, oxbow	Erosion, deposition, transportation, longshore drift, hydraulic action, abrasion, attrition, solution, wave-cut platform, headland, bay, cliff, cave, arch, stack, stump, beach, spit, bar, tombolo, coastal management, hard engineering, soft engineering, sea wall, groynes, beach nourishment, managed retreat, coastal erosion, fetch.	Urbanisation, favela, informal settlement, inequality, overpopulation, sanitation, crime, housing shortages, rural-urban migration, infrastructure, unemployment, water supply, waste management, air pollution, traffic congestion, social inequality, pacification, self-help schemes, urban planning, sustainable development, urban regeneration, transport systems, economic	Hypothesis, primary data, secondary data, sampling, random sampling, systematic sampling, stratified sampling, qualitative data, quantitative data, data collection, field sketch, transect, questionnaire, survey, observation, measurement, equipment, risk assessment, analysis, interpretation, GIS (Geographic Information Systems), conclusion, evaluation, reliability, accuracy, anomaly, scatter graph, bar chart, pie chart,

		sustainable management, habitat, conservation, producer, consumer, decomposer.	lake, levee, delta, erosion, transportation, deposition, hydraulic action, abrasion, solution, attrition, river discharge, flooding, river management.		opportunities, quality of life, environmental challenges.	data presentation, methodology.
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Year 11
GCSE Geography Curriculum Map (AQA)

Term	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Topic	Fieldwork Urban Issues and Challenges The changing economic world.	The Changing Economic World	The Changing Economic World. The Challenge of Resources Management.	The Challenge of Resource Management: Energy	Exam Preparation.	Exam Preparation Exams
Overview	Complete fieldwork write-up. Impact of urban sprawl on rural urban fringe. Urban regeneration case study: Olympic Park. Features of sustainable living: water and energy conservation, waste and creating green space. Sustainable transport. Ways of classifying countries according to level of development. Economic and social measures of	Strategies to reduce the development gap. Case Study: Tourism in Jamaica. Case Study: Nigeria Location and importance Political, social, cultural and environmental context. The changing industrial structure (shell). Role of TNC's and their impact.	Case Study: UK Causes of Economic Change. A post-industrial economy, Science and Business parks. Impacts of industry on the environment. Social and Economic Change in rural	The changing demand and provision of resources in the UK creates opportunities and challenges. Global distribution of energy consumption and supply. Reasons for increasing energy consumption.	Issues evaluation pre-released booklet. Fieldwork and geographical enquiry	Issues evaluation pre-released booklet.

	development. Demographic transition model. Physical, economic and historical causes of uneven development. Consequences of uneven development.	Environmental impacts of development (Bodo oil spill). Types and impacts of aid. Effects of development on quality of life. Changing political and trading relationship with the wider world.	areas: Cambridgeshire vs Outer Hebrides. Improvements in road, rail, port and airport. North-South divide. Links with the wider world. Significance of food, water and energy to social and economic wellbeing. Global inequalities in the supply and consumption of resources.	Factors affecting energy supply. Impacts of energy insecurity. Overview of strategies to increase energy supply. Advantages and disadvantages of the extraction of a fossil fuel. Moving towards a sustainable resource future. Example of a local renewable energy scheme in a LIC.		
Skills	Fieldwork – mean, mode, median Graphs Data analysis DTM Skills-pod: Scatter graphs & Population pyramids	Data analysis. Skills-pod: Ratio	Critical thinking Skills-pod: Percentiles	Critical thinking	Critical thinking, Exam techniques	Critical thinking, Exam techniques
Key Vocab	Economic development, globalisation, emerging economies, trade, industrialisation, investment,	Economic development, globalisation, emerging		Energy resources, renewable energy, non-renewable		

	inequality, poverty, economic growth, GNI (Gross National Income), HDI (Human Development Index), economic indicators, primary sector, secondary sector, tertiary sector, quaternary sector, globalisation, fair trade, economic restructuring, informal economy, sustainability, local economies, development strategies.	economies, trade, industrialization, investment, inequality, poverty, economic growth, GNI (Gross National Income), HDI (Human Development Index), economic indicators, primary sector, secondary sector, tertiary sector, quaternary sector, fair trade, economic restructuring, informal economy, local economies, development strategies, structural change, foreign direct investment (FDI), economic disparity, sustainable development, global supply chains, urbanisation, rural development,		energy, fossil fuels, solar power, wind power, hydroelectric power, geothermal energy, biomass, nuclear energy, energy consumption, energy efficiency, energy conservation, carbon footprint, energy security, energy transition, sustainable energy, demand and supply, energy policy, grid systems, fossil fuel dependency, energy poverty, environmental impact, sustainable development, alternative		
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		economic diversification.		energy, emissions reduction, energy management, integrated energy systems, decentralised energy systems		
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