

## **IGCSE Geography**

IGCSE Geography is aimed at students who wish to continue the development of geography skills learnt in earlier years. The skills and knowledge that are acquired during the Year 7 – 9 courses are added to and extended, so that students will have a better idea of the world in which they live and how it works. Students are encouraged to develop an inquiring mind about local, national and international examples, which relate to the topics being studied. Students will develop a 'sense of place' by looking at the world around them. At the completion of the two-year course, students will have the opportunity to sit for the externally assessed Cambridge IGCSE examinations in May.

### **Topics Studied**

Students will examine a range of natural and man-made environments and learn about some of the processes affecting development. The following topics will be studied:

- Rivers, Coasts, Rocks, Structure, Earthquakes and Volcanoes, Weather, Climate
- Natural Vegetation
- Population, Settlement, Agriculture, Industry, Leisure Activities and Tourism
- Energy
- Interaction of Human and Physical Geography e.g. deforestation, soil erosion, desertification, acid rain
- Map and Graphical Skills
- Fieldwork Techniques

### **School Assessment**

Students will be assessed topic by topic. Assessment may vary between topics, and may include:

- Independent research & Case studies on various topics
- Data interpretation including maps, graphs, charts.
- Short answer responses

- Creating presentations, short videos or pod casts
- Developing wikis or similar online resources
- Unit and topic tests and term exams

## **External Assessment**

Subject to satisfactory performance throughout the year, students will have the opportunity to sit the IGCSE Examinations at the end of Year 11. These are externally set and marked exams. All candidates have to sit Paper 1 and 2 and then we will opt for Paper 3, which is the Coursework option. (There is an option for students to sit the Alternative to Coursework Paper 4 if they join the school part way through the year.)

**Paper 1** (1 hour 45 minutes) is an extended paper and grades A-G are available. This paper tests all the work studied over the two year course and test the student's knowledge, understanding and ability to refer to case studies. Students will have to answer 3 questions from a choice of 6 based on major themes studied throughout the course.

**Paper 2** (1 hour 30 minutes) is completed by all candidates, and is largely skills based, testing the student's ability to read and interpret maps, cross-sections, graphical data and other geographical information. Students will have to answer all of the questions.

**Paper 3** -The students also have a coursework element to their course, which is called Paper 3. This is where candidates have to complete two coursework assignments set by the teacher. They must be on average 1200 – 1500 words each and will be based on data that the student has collected on the residential IGCSE fieldwork trip and will be expected to know how to record and analyse data. Students will carry out their fieldwork on rivers, urban patterns and tourism, which will enable them to produce their coursework. Paper 3 gives the students a great chance of getting a high grade in the final examinations whilst also preparing them for both Standard and Higher level IB Geography.

The papers are weighted as follows:

Paper 1 - 45%

Paper 2 - 27.5%

Paper 3/4 - 27.5%

### **Resources and Texts**

- *The New Wider World* by Waugh, D (2003)
- *Essential Mapwork Skills* by Ross, S (2003)
- *Geography Fieldwork Projects* by Frew, J (1999)