

Option – GCSE Geography

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There has never been a better or more important time to study geography. With growing interest in issues such as climate change, migration, economic change, environmental degradation and social cohesion, geography is one of the most relevant courses you could choose to study. Geographers are also highly employable. Whatever your passion for the world - fascination with landscapes or concerns about inequality - geography will provide you with knowledge and transferable skills that will reward you personally and advance you professionally.

As part of the GCSE, students will participate in two **compulsory** fieldtrips in both rural and urban environments in the UK, for which students are asked to make a voluntary contribution. **At present, we are estimating total trip costs of around £25-30.** In addition, there may also be an optional residential fieldtrip at some point within the two-year course – in 2018 30 David Nieper Academy geographers visited Italy to explore volcanic landscapes, and in 2019, 27 students enjoyed the trip of a lifetime to Norway!

To be a successful GCSE geographer, you must:

- Have a strong desire to further improve your literacy skills and maths skills
- Be prepared to revise thoroughly as part of your weekly homework
- Have enjoyed and been successful at geography in year 7, 8 and 9

All of these things matter because geography is a very challenging subject. You will be expected to do lots of writing in every lesson, and we even do lots of numeracy! There is a large amount of homework which often involves revising the material that we have studied in class. For students who follow these expectations, geography is an immensely rewarding option.

We follow the **Edexcel B** specification. There is no coursework; your final grade will come from 3 examinations that take place at the end of the 2 years. The course structure is as follows:

Component	Content	Assessment
1. Global Geographical Issues	1. Hazardous Earth 2. Development Dilemmas 3. Challenges of an urbanising world	90-minute written examination 37.5% of qualification 94 marks Includes multiple-choice questions, calculations, short open response and extended writing questions
2. UK Geographical Issues	4. The UK's evolving physical landscapes (geology, coasts and rivers) 5. The UK's evolving human landscape 6. Geographical Investigations (fieldwork)	90-minute written examination 37.5% of the qualification 94 marks Includes multiple-choice questions, calculations, short open response and extended writing questions
3. People and Environment Issues	7. People and the biosphere 8. Forests under threat 9. Consuming energy resources	90-minute written examination 25% of the qualification 64 marks Includes multiple-choice questions, calculations, short open response and extended writing questions based on a decision making exercise