



GEOGRAPHY GCSE

Ofsted said: "Pupils study a high-quality and consistently delivered curriculum. They achieve extremely well." May 2026

GEOGRAPHY GCSE SPECIFICATION AT A GLANCE

EXAM BOARD: AQA

Candidates will pursue a course leading to the award of a GCSE 9-1 qualification at the end of Year 11. The GCSE requires students to complete three units of work that are examined at the end of Year 11 in three written exams.

UNITS:

Unit 1: Living with the physical environment

Written examination - 1hr 30 min - 35%

- The challenge of natural hazards
- The living world
- Physical landscapes of the UK

Unit 2: Challenges in the human environment

Written examination - 1hr 30min - 35%

- Urban issues and challenges
- The changing economic world
- The challenge of resource management

Unit 3: Geographical applications

Written examination - 1hr 30min - Pre-release resource booklet- 30%

- Issue evaluation
- Compulsory Fieldwork in physical and human environments

Geographical skills are taught throughout each unit.

SUPPORTING TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES:

Fieldwork - Day visits to collect data

1. Physical Environment - Investigating coastal processes
2. Human Environment - Investigating geographical processes in a human environment

SHOULD MY CHILD STUDY GEOGRAPHY?

Geography is a relevant subject that is part of our everyday life from extreme weather to endangered ecosystems to creation of great urban spaces. Knowing, understanding and applying a range of geographical skills allows our students to identify the changes they would like to see in the world. Michael Palin has stated that geography students 'hold the key' to the world's problems and it is a subject that 'broadens the mind' (Palin, 2018, 2011).

What will my child gain from geography?

Geography is a desirable subject to study because it gives our students greater awareness and understanding about places and spaces, both locally and globally. It equips them with the necessary skills and knowledge to live and thrive in a globalised world. It encourages students to think critically about contemporary and historical issues. It creates opportunities for our geographers to think about future global issues and their role within this.

Skills of geographers include:

- Reading and using maps, aerial photos and diagrams in a range of formats to strengthen navigation skills
- Collecting, presenting, analysing and evaluating a range of data
- Developing critical thinking and decision-making skills
- Gaining a knowledge and understanding of the world and global issues such as sustainability and climate change
- Appreciating different cultures both at home and abroad

Where will geography take my child?

Geography complements all subjects and contributes to employability through the further development of literacy, numeracy, ICT, self-motivation and teamwork skills. It is a good foundation for pursuing A levels. Some jobs for which GCSE geography could be a pathway include:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Climate Change Advisor | • Volcanologist |
| • Town Planner | • Economic Development Advisor |
| • Oceanographer | |
| • Architect | • Marine Biologist |

Further reading/ suggested revision materials:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035>

AQA GCSE (9-1) Geography – Hodder

GCSE Geography for AQA Student Book- Cambridge Press

Geography AQA Student Book- Oxford University Press

GCSE Geography AQA Revision Guide

Seneca learning - <https://www.senecalearning.com/>

Time for geography - <https://timeforgeography.co.uk/>

For further information, please contact:

Head of Geography:

Mrs Danielle Morgan, BSc (Hons) Geography, MEd Cantab
morgand@goldington.beds.sch.uk

Goldington Academy

Haylands Way

Bedford

MK41 9BX

Principal: Mr F Galbraith

Tel: (01234) 261516

Email: office@goldington.beds.sch.uk

Website: www.goldington.beds.sch.uk



www.facebook.com/Goldington