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| <b>Subject:</b>               | <b>Geography</b>   |
| <b>Level:</b>                 | GCSE   |
| <b>Awarding Body:</b>         | AQA  |
| <b>Specification Code:</b>    | 8035   |
| <b>Awarding Body website:</b> | <a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk">www.aqa.org.uk</a>   |
| <b>ASSESSMENT:</b>            |  |
| Examination %:                | Paper 1 The Physical Environment 35%<br>Paper 2 The Human Environment 35%<br>Paper 3 Geographical Skills 30% |
| When will it be sat?          | May/June at the end of year 11   |
| <b>TIERS:</b>                 |  |
| No Tier Grades:               | 9 – 1  |
| <b>Subject Leader:</b>        | Mrs Cottle   |
| <b>Email address:</b>         | scottle@psf.wirral.sch.uk  |

### **Description**

Geography GCSE offers a stimulating and imaginative issue-based approach to geography. It gives an insight into future challenges through the study of current issues of local, national and global importance. Studying geography helps your son/daughter to develop an awareness of mankind's responsibilities to other people, the environment and the sustainability of the planet. Geography GCSE helps to develop a wide range of skills that employers rate highly:

- communication skills
- interpersonal skills through debate and discussion
- literacy and numeracy skills
- problem-solving skills
- entrepreneurial skills and awareness of career possibilities.

### **UNIT 1 Living with the Physical Environment (35% GCSE)**

- **The Challenge of Natural Hazards** – we will study the causes, effects and responses to volcanoes, earthquakes, tropical storms, climate change and extreme weather in the UK.
- **The Living World** – we will learn about ecosystems ranging in scale for local UK ecosystems to global biomes such as the Tropical Rainforest. We will look at the opportunities and challenges that cold environments provide.
- **Physical Landscapes of the UK** – we will study the location of the UK's river and coastal features and learn about the processes that form them. We will learn about how we can manage river flooding and coastal erosion.

### **UNIT 2 Challenges in the Human Environment (35% GCSE)**

- **Urban Issues and Challenges** – we will learn about causes and impacts of global population growth, the challenges that exist for people that are living in slums in Low

Income Counties and how the UK has coped with changes in population. We will study and visit Liverpool to look at how successful the regeneration has been.

- **The Changing Economic World** – how can we tell if a country is developed? In this module we look at how we measure development, ways of reducing the development gap between countries and how countries like Brazil can benefit from industries like tourism.
- **The Challenge of Resource Management** – the global distribution of resources such as food, water and energy and the issues associated with supply and demand. We will focus on world energy issues and how countries like Sweden and Peru are solving their energy problems.

### **UNIT 3 Geographical Skills (30% GCSE)**

- **Issue evaluation** – students will be given an information pack in advance (March of Year 11) to study. They will use this in the exam to answer questions about the issue. They will make a decision based on the information and will justify their choice in an extended answer. E.g. What is the best way to improve traffic problems in Liverpool?
- **Field work** - pupils will carry out 2 fieldwork investigations which will be written up as an enquiry; one of these will be on the coastal sand dunes in Formby and the other in the docks in Liverpool. In the exam they will be asked questions about these enquires e.g. where did they collect the data, was it valuable, how did they present their results, what were their conclusions?

### **How will I be assessed?**

UNIT 1 and 2 are assessed in exams taken at the end of Year 11. Each exam is 1 hour 30 minutes and is worth 35% of the GCSE (UNIT 1 and 2 worth 70% together). UNIT 3 is also assessed as an exam at the end of Year 11. It is 1 hour 30 minutes and is worth 30% of the GCSE.

### **Future Opportunities**

GCSE Geography contributes to employability. Employers like geography qualifications because they demonstrate a wide range of skills. Geography and the skills gained can be applied to a range of jobs in very diverse areas; travel journalism; education; police; law; architecture; archaeology; journalism; media; environmental management; conservation.

Geography is also a well-regarded subject for those students who are thinking of studying onwards at A level, with many universities recognising the developed level of thinking the skills you gain from studying it.

### **Further information**

#### **Find out more from:**

The Royal Geographical Society with IBG on [www.rgs.org](http://www.rgs.org)

The Geographical Association on [www.geography.org.uk](http://www.geography.org.uk)