



Upton Court
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

U.C.G.S. Geography Department

Year 9 GCSE Transition Booklet 2016



'Without Geography you're nowhere!'

Welcome to GCSE Geography!

Who lives in these homes?

When was this photograph taken?

Where is this stretch of coastline?

What process created this beach?

Why is this coast being eroded?

Birlinging Gap, West Sussex:
location for the Year 9 visit

Preparing for your GCSEs

The Geography department provide all students with a range of opportunities to challenge their understanding of the British Isles and wider world. In addition they will develop skills such from mathematical to cartographic and analytical to graphical which will prepare for GCSE exams, further education and the world of employment. The GCSE course builds upon and develops understanding from Key Stage 3 with students studying Physical and Human Geography in equal measure. Students are actively encouraged to apply their understanding so that they can explain the increasingly complex world that they will inherit. Amidst the huge changes to GCSE specifications and grading systems we have decided to remain with the AQA exam board and the course is examined and structured as in the tables below.

How is the AQA Geography GCSE examined?

Unit 1: Living with the Physical Environment (35% of GCSE)	Unit 2: Challenges in the Human Environment Geography (35% of GCSE)	Unit 3: Geographical Application (30% of GCSE)
<p>Physical Landscapes in the UK: Rivers and coastal landscapes.</p> <p>Challenge of Natural Hazards: earthquakes and volcanoes, hurricanes, extreme weather, climate change</p> <p>The Living World: Local ecosystems, tropical rainforests and cold environments</p>	<p>The Changing Economic World: global patterns of development and the development gap.</p> <p>Urban Challenges: global patterns of urbanisation, and two contrasting city case studies.</p> <p>The Challenge of Resource Management: Use of energy resources in the UK and global resource scarcity.</p>	<p>Issue Evaluation: based upon pre-release material</p> <p>Physical Fieldwork: A river or coastal investigation</p> <p>Human Fieldwork: An investigation into a settlement <i>NB, There is no Controlled Assessment on the New AQA GCSE Geography course.</i></p>

How is GCSE Geography structured at UCGS?

	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Content studied:	Physical Landscapes of the UK: Rivers (P) Urban Challenges (H) Physical Landscapes of the UK: Coasts (P)	Challenge of Resource Management (H) The Living World (P) Issue Evaluation practice	Challenges of Natural Hazards (P) The Changing Economic World (H) Issue Evaluation based upon pre-release resources Revision for external exams
Field trip(s):	Physical Geography daytrip to Birling Gap, West Sussex	Residential trip to Nettlecombe Court, Exmoor National Park	Human Geography daytrip, location TBC

Achieving your Potential

Undertaking GCSEs can be intimidating but the Geography department provide a range of resources and support to aid your learning. To achieve your potential as a Geographer you should do the following:

- Join the GCSE Edmodo group – this forum will offer revision and extension material. It's also an opportunity for you to share your own wider reading.
- Follow @UCGSGeo on Twitter – this is where we share news stories and field trip photographs.
- Use the Geography Personal Learning Checklists (PLCs) to check on your learning to date and to read ahead.
- Use in class and homework opportunities to create revision resources on cue cards, post its, mind maps, mnemonics or quizzes that you could post on Edmodo.
- Consolidate and extend your learning by using the following websites:
 - <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035> (this is the official AQA webpage that has detailed information about the course and some specimen papers as there are no past papers for the new specification).
 - <http://www.doddlelearn.co.uk/geography> (a really good revision site which has been updated for the new AQA specification).
 - <http://www.coolgeography.co.uk/> (this site is great for AQA and is in the process of being updated for the new specification)
 - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography/> (there lots of videos, interactive games and test bites to check your understanding)
 - <https://revisionworld.com/gcse-revision/geography> (this contains the key ideas but is not specifically for the AQA syllabus)
 - <http://digimapforschools.edina.ac.uk/> (you will need to get the password from your Geography teacher but this site is great for developing your cartographic skills)

Using C.O.P.E strategies in Geography

Consolidating Learning



Research shows that reviewing information soon after it has been learnt allows students to remember much more. Returning to the learning from a lesson later in the same day will allow you to be much more successful.

Organising Learning



You will complete a significant amount of classwork, homework, independent work and other activities in preparation for your GCSE exams. Successful students find ways to organise their time and learning effectively so that it is of use to them.

COPE Strategies:

- Read a good newspaper and be aware of Geography in the news.
- Create flash cards after each lesson or at the end of each week covering key content.
- Review class notes within 24 hours of the lesson.
- Find links between Geographical topics and other subject you study in school.

COPE Strategies:

- Apply the Geography you learn to places you visit be in on holiday or on your way home.
- Revise together and talk through key concepts and case studies.
- Be an active learner and ask your teacher for help if you need it.
- Title and date your work clearly.
- Highlight key terms for revision
- Complete exam questions in timed conditions.

Preparing Revision Materials

Successful students prepare for revision and revise earlier topics throughout the year – this means creating revision materials throughout the year in preparation for the exam period. They will also revise constantly so they do not become rusty on earlier topics. They use in class assessments and Pre-Public exams to perfect their revision strategies.



Exam Practice

Ultimately, your success will be measured in the public exams at the end of Year 11. Successful students practice many past papers, find effective ways to monitor and improve their exam technique, and are very familiar with the mark scheme and how it will be applied.

