

Geography

Advanced Higher

Recommended Entry Requirements

Higher
Geography

A pass grade at Higher is absolutely essential along with an enjoyment of the subject and a high degree of self-motivation.

Progression through Geography

Geography is a 'bridge' between the Arts and Sciences and Higher Geography is recognised as a valuable qualification by universities.

Course Content

Unit 1: Geographical Methods and Techniques consisting of learning fieldwork techniques, some statistical techniques (you do not need to be mathematically brilliant!) and producing and interpreting maps and diagrams.

Unit 2: The Geographical Study is a fieldwork project based on geographical research, e.g. a river study. It involves planning, carrying out fieldwork, analysing the data collected and writing a report. There is the opportunity to undertake a 3 day residential fieldtrip which gives pupils the chance to gather data for their project (there is a cost involved).

Unit 3: Geographical Issues is an essay which critically evaluates a controversial and topical theme e.g. fracking for gas, by identifying and evaluating different viewpoints.

Skills Developed

This course gives you an in-depth understanding of complex ideas about how the world works and also gives you the chance to carry out your own research, with an emphasis on fieldwork. The study of Geography at Advanced Higher level also gives you the opportunity to develop a high level of skill in independent study, co-operative learning, objective thinking and the ability to communicate clearly and confidently, all regarded as valuable assets by employers and universities.

Assessment

The Course assessment consists of two components: an exam paper and a project also referred to as a folio.

Exam Paper

The purpose of this question paper is to test map interpretation and data handling questions cover in unit 1. The paper is externally marked by the SQA and is worth 50 marks.

Project or Folio

This consists of a folio made up of two sections:

Section A: The Geographical Study - a report on geographical research, 70 marks

Section B: The Geographical Issue - an essay which critically evaluates an issue from a geographical perspective, 30 marks

Pupils will send off their folio in April to be marked by the SQA.

Related Careers

Geography is also useful in a wide range of careers, including work in environmental sciences, civil engineering, marketing and design, tourism, surveying, planning and architecture, teaching, conservation, transport, the civil service, agriculture, geophysics and many other career paths.

Michael Jordan, Prince William, David Attenborough, Amy MacDonald and Chris Tarrant all studied Geography

