

Dear Student

Geography at Braunton Academy is a well resourced department that encourages you to work independently and to gain the skills necessary to further your knowledge and understanding and perform well in a variety of assessments. The structure of this new GCSE qualification is new and allows you to complete part of your qualification in year 10 and reduces the burden of final revision and preparation in the final months of year 11.

The best people to ask are the Y11 students who have studied this GCSE in Geography. They are very approachable and willing to give you any information …. and they won’t bite! Failing that, you can come and see Mr Langmead or Mr Parsons anytime for some impartial advice.

**To answer some common questions..**

***“I only have three options, why choose geography?”***

We believe that you should take Geography because it helps you:

**to** understand the environment at local and global scales

**to** know your world through fieldwork

**to** make decisions that balance environmental and developmental concerns

**to** develop a wide range of skills such as presenting arguments or map skills

**to** use computers and other technology

**for** analysis / presentation

**to** understand other cultures in the UK and throughout the world

**to** know where places in the world are …… without having to use Wikipedia!

**Facts that you should know….**

* Geography is one of the most popular optional GCSE’s around the world.
* Geography links extremely well with history as well as specialist science and arts subjects, so it is ideal for a balanced curriculum
* Geography has one of the highest rates of graduate employability, as well as being highly valued by employers worldwide.
* The qualification leads on to AS/A2 level Geography and contains all the knowledge, skills and understanding necessary for further study.

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The course covers four main areas:

**1. Key Geographical Themes –** A study of the new and updated Geography key themes including Rivers & Coasts, Population & Settlement, Natural Hazards and Economic Development. ICT and the use of GIS are encouraged throughout this unit. This is the taught section of the course and forms the basis of our lessons over the two year GCSE period. 1¾ hr Examination at the end of **year 11**. 50%

**2. Sustainable Decision Making Exercise** – Testing your ability to apply the ideas contained in the Economic Development unit to a scenario pre-released three weeks before the assessment. 1 hr decision making assessment at the end of **year 11**. 25%

**3. Geographical Enquiry** – Linked in with one of the four key themes. Fieldwork is undertaken where primary data must be collected. 2000 Words, 25%

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| **Course Structure** | **Number** | **Timing** | **Percentage of final mark** |
| KGT Exam | 1 | June Year 11 | 50% |
| SDME Assessment | 1 | June Year 11 | 25% |
| Geographical Enquiry | 1 | July Y10/ September Y11 | 25% |

**Who can do Geography?**

If you choose geography you must be prepared to work hard. We encourage all of our learners to be independent and thoughtful in their studies. Group work, decision making, mysteries, mind mapping, quizzes and presentations are all part of the package! There are two levels of examinations; Foundation level – Grades C to G, Higher level – Grades A\* to D.

As well as combining well with other subjects, geography itself contains many skills which can be demonstrated in other subjects.

**Will Geography be useful to you in the future?**

Geography will help you to be more aware of everyday situations and issues faced by the people who live around you and across the world. Geography is a highly topical subject, ever changing as world events unfold. When you see newspaper articles or television reports about a potential cataclysmic ‘supervolcanic’ eruption in the USA, then your geography course will help you make sense of what is going by making balanced judgements. Geography will make you an aware and better informed citizen. Choosing geography with other subjects that interest you could lead to a promising future career. Some combinations are listed below along with the type of jobs you could expect to qualify for:

**GCSE GEOGRAPHY WITH…**

**POTENTIAL CAREERS**

**Advertising, architecture, cartography, landscape design, surveying.**

**Art + Design Technology**

**Agriculture, environmental health, estate management, nature conservation**

**Science**



**Archaeology, law, libraries, museums, publishing, politics**

**History**

**Business, overseas marketing, leisure and tourism**

**Modern Languages**

**Civil engineering, meteorology, mining, navigation, photography**

**Maths**

**Various subjects**

**Leisure services, sport and recreation management, social and youth work, surveying, transport services, banks, building societies, business, civil service, secretary/PA, police, army, health service, teaching.**

The choice is yours and yours only. You must pick the subject that you feel happy with. If you have any further questions about your options, your first port of call should be your Form Tutor.

Mr Langmead

Head of Geography