

Overview of Year 9 Geography Curriculum

This is the final year of a three-year course. Many of the skills and concepts introduced in this year are revisited after being introduced in year seven and eight. We aim for the pupils to acquire knowledge, develop understanding, revision of and exposure to new skills and the development of positive attitudes to global issues.

1. Natural Hazards

Pupils learn about the patterns and processes associated with volcanoes and earthquakes. They are encouraged to use the internet to research recent natural hazards. Pupils will also learn what impact these events have in countries at different stages of economic development. The issue of Global Warming is studied with the pupils investigating the causes, effects and possible solutions to this human-made problem.

2. Ecosystems

Pupils will study different types of climate and vegetation found across the world. They will compare the characteristics and distribution pattern of the British climate with other climate types including Equatorial and Hot Desert types. Pupils will learn about the main features of these climate types and the processes that cause it and also the vegetation associated with these areas.

3. European Union-Case study -Italy

Pupils will study a brief history of the E.U, then look at Italy as an example of an EU country. Pupils will consider the Mediterranean climate and other physical and human features that give Italy its character. We then compare the richer more industrialised North of Italy to the poorer South.

4. Tourism-Case Study-Majorca

Tourism is an important and growing employer of labour in many parts of the world. Pupils will study tourism as an example of tertiary industry, and pupils will examine both the benefits and problems that tourism brings to an area both in the UK and in Europe. National Parks are studied in the UK. The Spanish Island of Majorca is used as an example for pupils to apply the skills they have learnt and consider how mass tourism has affected this island.

5. World Development

This unit attempts an overview of many of the different issues studied over the last three years. Pupils are encouraged to appreciate the differences in terms of wealth, population growth, employment structures and trade between the richest and poorest nations. Pupils are then encouraged to try and think of possible solutions to these problems and to show a greater awareness of the imbalances which exist on a global scale.

Homework

Homework is set each week. The type of homework varies. In year 9 homework can be plotting the distribution of volcanoes on a world map or researching a recent earthquake or tsunami. Worksheets, which build on classwork are often used. Other examples include writing a newspaper article about destruction of the rainforest or the learning of key geographical terms and revising for assessments. The use of ICT and the Internet is encouraged in Geography as a means of improving knowledge and skills. As Geographical topics are often in the news pupils may be asked to watch news broadcasts or documentaries and read newspapers.

Examinations/Key assessments

Pupils are assessed continually in geography at the end of each unit either in a formal assessment test or a designated piece of work. Six key pieces of work will be assessed throughout the year. In the case of an assessment test all pupils will be given advance notice and time to prepare for the test. The class teacher marks each test to a common mark scheme and these marks are converted to a percentage to allow for a comparison within and between classes. These will be marked in detail against National Curriculum Level Descriptors. Each pupil will be taught how to assess their own and other pupils' work to help them become more independent learners and to allow them to progress through the levels.

How Parents can help

- Check that homework is recorded in your son's planner
- Check that this work is completed to the best of his ability
- Provide an atlas and coloured pencils to help him complete his homework
- Check that your son has a pen, pencil and a ruler for lessons
- Please encourage your son to use the library and research work on the internet