



## **Key Stage: 4**

### **Subject: Geography**

#### **Aims of the subject:**

From an erupting volcano to our ever expanding population and the ongoing developments in Lancaster's infrastructure, Geography can be seen all around us. Our aim is to inspire students at Ripley to develop a love of Geography and recognise its importance in our daily lives. The topics covered aim to encourage pupils to not just think globally or nationally but recognise what is important locally as well. Geography has a key role to play in helping pupils to become informed and well-rounded global citizens who are confident to question and have a sense of place in the world in which they live.

Geography is taught by experienced, enthusiastic subject specialists. It allows pupils to describe, understand and comprehend the ever changing world in which we belong. This involves a study of places, patterns and processes and we look at the physical world and the interaction of humans on their environment.

At KS4, Geography is an option subject which qualifies for the English Baccalaureate. The GCSE Geography course looks at 6 individual topics, 3 Human and 3 Physical. They are chosen based on their relevance to this area, linking with what was learned in KS3 and what is learned in KS5. This is done through focus on case study locations at national and international level. Fieldwork plays a major role in the course with students having to experience field studies based on both human and physical geography topics.

#### **GCSE Examination Board: AQA**

#### **Assessment Overview:**

- All external assessments are sat at the end of Year 11

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment (1hr 30mins)

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment (1hr 30mins)

Paper 3: Geographical applications (1hr 15mins)

Year	What will I learn?	Assessment
Year 9	<p>Topics studied this year will include:</p> <p><b>Challenges of natural hazards</b> This will include the study of plate tectonics, earthquakes &amp; volcanoes, tropical storms, extreme weather (UK) and climate change.</p> <p><b>Urban Issues &amp; Challenges</b> The global pattern of urban change, investigate cities from low income countries and the UK to include topics such as: reasons for growth, global importance, challenges the cities face now and in the future, how urban areas can be made more sustainable.</p> <p><b>Fieldwork</b> Fieldwork is an important part of the course which will be examined at the end of Year 11. Students will be given the opportunity to relate their learning of urban areas to their local city of Lancaster. This will provide a real world context for the content covered in class.</p>	<p>Each topic is assessed at the end using exam questions. Skills and extended writing tasks are assessed separately.</p> <p>A mock exam is given at the end of the year which includes exam questions from each taught topic.</p>
Year 10	<p>Topics studied this year will include:</p> <p><b>The changing economic world</b> Pupils will be asked to appreciate that there are global variations in wealth and development and recognise the various strategies that can help to reduce the development gap. The topic will conclude with a study of a newly emerging economy which will then be compared to the UK, a high income country.</p> <p><b>Physical landscapes in the UK</b> This topic will introduce the students to the contrasting landscapes that exist in the UK. Pupils will be asked to investigate both river landscapes and coastal landscapes. The physical processes that occur in these landscapes will</p>	<p>Each topic is assessed at the end using exam questions. Skills and extended writing tasks are assessed separately.</p> <p>A mock exam is given at the end of the year which includes exam questions from each taught topic.</p>

	<p>be studied as will the impact that these have on the human landscape through topics such as river floods and coastal erosion.</p> <p><b>Fieldwork</b> Fieldwork is an important part of the course which will be examined at the end of Year 11. Students will be given the opportunity to relate their learning to both a physical and human environment within their locality. This will provide a real world context for the content covered in class.</p>	
Year 11	<p>Topics studied this year will include:</p> <p><b>The living world</b> This topic will focus on a variety of ecosystems such as tropical rainforests and hot deserts. Students will explore what these areas are like and investigate the ways in which humans are having an impact on these fragile environments.</p> <p><b>The challenge of resource management</b> In this topic the students will explore how the demand for three fundamental resources (food, energy and water) is changing and the impact this could have on society.</p>	

**Extra-curricular opportunities** – In Year 9 we investigate the urban landscape of Lancaster via a fieldtrip. This aims to explore a variety of residential areas and investigate the inequalities that exist within our locality. In addition to this, further fieldwork will be undertaken in Year 10 in preparation for their final assessments.

### **How you can support your child's progress**

Visit and recognise as many diverse environments as possible. Encourage an interest in current affairs and get them questioning what they see. Help them to observe changes in a local, national and global context and get them to think of the impact of change. Why is it like this? How is it changing? Who is affected by the changes? Look for trends and patterns which help to simplify our complex world.