

Harris Church of England Academy

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Headteacher Mrs Roberta Harrison



Dear Student,

Congratulations for securing a place on the Geography GCSE course here at Harris. You'll have had many Geography lessons during your time here already, but you will now engage in this subject at a higher level. So, welcome to the course; our Geography team are looking forward to supporting your journey, as you explore new concepts, develop your skills, and deepen your understanding of the world around us. We're excited to see all that you'll achieve and discover with us on our journey.

Over the next two years, we will be studying 3 distinct topics in Geography:

Living with the Physical Environment (Exam paper one)



It covers three main sections: The Challenge of Natural Hazards, The Living World, and Physical Landscapes in the UK.

Challenges of Human Environment (Exam paper two)



It covers three main sections: Urban Issues and Challenges, The Changing Economic World, and The Challenge of Resource Management

Investigating the World (Exam paper three)



This section focuses on Issue Evaluation, Geographical Skills, and Fieldwork. The paper is divided into two sections: Issue Evaluation, which assesses understanding of a pre-release case study, and Fieldwork, which tests practical skills in both familiar and unfamiliar environments

Hunstanton Fieldwork (Examined in Exam paper three)



Fieldwork is a compulsory element of AQA GCSE Geography. At Harris we run a trip to Hunstanton to support this element of study. This content is assessed in Exam paper three and provides students with primary data and a practical fieldwork experience to answer geographical questions related to coastal processes and management. This firsthand experience is essential for developing the skills and knowledge needed to excel in the fieldwork investigation section of the exam.



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The AQA GCSE Geography course is assessed exclusively through written exams. You will have three exam papers at the end of Y11 to complete, which contain the topics above. Each of the three exams will be one hour and 30 minutes long.

To get yourself prepared for this course, we have a few recommendations:

Recommended textbook:

GCSE 9-1 Geography AQA: Student Book Second Edition Paperback – 6 Oct. 2022 by Bob Digby (Author), Nicholas Rowles (Author), David Holmes (Author), Simon Ross (Contributor)

AQA GCSE (9-1) Geography Second Edition Paperback – 26 Jun. 2020 by John Widdowson (Author), Simon Oakes (Author), Michael Witherick (Author), Meryl King (Author) *See World of Books – a website that sells second-hand textbooks which can be an affordable option.*

Recommended reading:

Physical Geography

The Ages of Gaia - James Lovelock (1988) A biography of the living Earth – to be read before ‘adventures in the Anthropocene!’

Adventures in the Anthropocene - Gaia Vince (2014) A must read for all geographers! It charts the rise of the human geological time period, the impact on the planet and how it is being managed.

Human Geography

Prisoners of Geography - Tim Marshall (2015). Tim Marshall books are a must read for GCSE as they explore the central themes of geopolitics, inequality, development and globalisation.

Useful Website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z2f3cdm> Bitesize Geography - Perfect for GCSE geographers!

These are points to begin with, but as always, if you still have any questions about the course, please find Miss Bastos, Mr. Bradley or Mr. Hill to discuss. We are all happy to help, even if it just means explaining what a particular unit entails.

Geography is more than just memorizing maps, country capitals, or understanding the shape of landforms. It is a broad, interdisciplinary field that studies the relationships between people and their environments, examining how physical landscapes shape human history, culture, and society.

“Geography is destiny.”— Tim Marshall, The Power of Geography

Miss Bastos, Mr. Bradley and Mr Hill
Harris Geography Department



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