



Aylesbury High School | #AHSWalksTall

Developing uniquely talented young adults, who are independent, strong and confident

Dear Parent/Carer,

As students embark on their Geography GCSE, we thought it would be useful to share an overview of the course.

In Key Stage 4 Geography:

All students will study [AQA GCSE Geography](#). There are 3 examined components to GCSE Geography as follows:

- Paper 1 - Living with the Physical Environment
- Paper 2 - Challenges in the Human Environment
- Paper 3 - Geographical Applications

We started the first topic studied, Urban Issues and Challenges, at the end of Year 9 and will begin Year 10 by completing this topic. We will then move onto complete Physical Landscapes in The UK: Glaciers; The Challenge of Resource Management; Physical Landscapes in the UK: Coasts and The Living World in Year 10.

This leaves The Challenge of Natural Hazards and The Changing Economic World to study in Year 11. In the first half term of Year 11, all students will need to complete the compulsory field work element of the Geography GCSE which is assessed in Paper 3: Geographical Applications. We will take students to Dorset for a 3 day residential trip that involves a Human Geography investigation in the town of Boscombe and a Physical Geography investigation in the town of Swanage. Whilst in Dorset, we will also get the opportunity to see many different coastal landforms to reinforce the knowledge learnt during the Physical Landscapes in The UK: Coasts topic.

12 weeks before the Paper 3: Geographical Applications exam (around the end of March in Year 11), students will receive the pre-release for this paper. This pre-release has a series of information about a place in the world and a situation that links with one of the topics studied earlier in the year. Students will study this and prepare to answer questions on this information in the exam.

Textbooks and resources:

Students will be asked to get a folder at the beginning of Year 10 to keep their class notes, homework and revision materials in. We would advise that students have one large ringbinder folder with dividers in to keep all of their notes in and a smaller folder that they can bring to every lesson with the notes from the topic currently being studied. Once we have completed a topic, we advise the students to move their notes to the larger ringbinder folder.

The students have online access to the Oxford AQA GCSE Geography textbook on Kerboodle. We also have physical copies of Hodder AQA GCSE Geography textbook, which students will use in class. All lesson material will be uploaded to the Google Classroom by their teacher for reference. At the

beginning of each topic, we give students a 'spec list' or 'topic on a page.' These break down the specification so students can see what they will be studying and can use this to tick off when they have studied it in class, revised it and completed practice exam questions.

Homework and assessment: Homework of 40 minutes duration can be set once a week in Geography to give the students time to consolidate their understanding of work covered at school. Homework may take the form of a written exam question, further research or revision. If your child is struggling with their homework then they should talk to their teacher about it so that support can be provided. We will continuously monitor student progress throughout the years by completing end of topic tests.

Revision: We will provide some revision materials before the end of topic tests and past exam papers can be found on the AQA website for students to practise. We advise students to complete revision notes and materials at the end of each topic, rather than waiting until larger tests such as the end of Year 10 assessments or Year 11 mocks.

Co-curricular Geography: Students can attend Geography Club at lunchtime. There will be Geography revision intervention for students throughout the year.

More information can be found on the [Geography subject page](#) of the school's website.

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs R Carbonaro, Head of Geography at, rcarbonaro@ahs.bucks.sch.uk