

GEOGRAPHY (Higher)

What are the aims of this course?

The Higher Geography course aims to develop further the student's geographical knowledge and skills from National 5, studying aspects of physical and human geography in greater depth as well as the ways in which people interact with the environment.

What are the recommended entry levels for this course?

Pupils would be expected to have gained a grade A or B at National 5 Geography, Environmental Science or another Social Subject. A pass at Higher level in another Social Subject or Environmental Science would also be accepted.

What content is included in this course?

There are three compulsory units:

- **Physical Environments** allows learners to develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the complex processes and interactions at work within physical environments on a local, regional and global scale. Key topics include: the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere and biosphere.
- **Human Environments** examines world population issues, urban and rural environments and the management of land use change in developed and developing countries.
- **Global Issues** develops the interactions between aspects of Physical and Human Geography through the study of two topics – Development and Health and Global Climate Change.

Throughout the course, all compulsory units are integrated and a range of geographical skills and techniques are employed. There is now improved articulation between Higher and Intermediate 2 which facilitates transfer of pupils between the two courses if appropriate.

What skills will I develop?

A complete list of skills is provided at the start of each unit. These include geographical methods and techniques such as observing and recording, field-sketching, graph skills and analysis of geographical data

What learning and teaching approaches will I experience?

Higher Geography is taught using a variety of methods, including whole-class teaching, groupwork, fieldwork and individual research. Good use is made of DVDs, video recordings, powerpoints and Ordnance Survey maps.

How will I be assessed?

Regular exam standard assessments are used to help pupils prepare for the final exam. The exam has two parts.

Paper 1: is based on the Physical and Human Environments and is worth 100 marks.

Paper 2: is based on the Global Issues topic and Map Interpretation and is worth 60 marks. Pupils also complete an assignment worth 30 marks.

What are the homework requirements?

Homework plays an important part in regular revision of key words and ideas, practice at exam-style questions and completion of class work. Students are expected to carry out individual research on relevant topics and present their findings to the class.

What are the possible progression routes?

S5 pupils taking Higher can proceed to Advanced Higher Geography and/or other related courses such as Higher Environmental Science. It is also useful for a range of University courses and is recognised as a science subject by many universities. Geography graduates are employed in a wide range of jobs including planning, land management, forestry, weather forecasting, tourism, ranger services and education.