

GEOGRAPHY (National 4/5)

What are the aims of this course?

The aim of National 5 Geography is to give students a clearer understanding of the major physical forces which shape our planet, how the human population makes use of the planet's resources, the major environmental problems humans face and how they might be overcome.

What are the recommended entry levels for this course?

A pass at National 4 Geography, Environmental Science or a similar level in one of the other Social Subjects.

What content is included in this course?

- **Physical Environments** - this has a British Isles context and studies a selection of landscape types, such as glaciated uplands, and coastlines of erosion and deposition and weather and how people use the landscape.
- **Human environments** – this has a wider context and studies detailed examples from economically more and less developed countries, e.g. world population distribution, change migration and problems in urban and rural areas.
- **Global Issues** – this has a stronger emphasis on global issues and the evaluation of strategies adopted to manage these. The issues we have chosen to study are the impact of human activity on the natural environment and Environmental Hazards. You will study health in developed and developing countries and diseases such as Malaria, Heart Disease and HIV/Aids, as well as studying a tropical storm, an earthquake and a volcanic eruption.

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. Learners will also develop skills necessary for learning, life and work by improving their communication, team-working and presentation skills.

What learning and teaching approaches will I experience?

National 5 Geography is taught using a variety of methods, including whole-class teaching, group work, fieldwork and individual research. Frequent use is made of DVDs, video recordings, powerpoint slideshows and Ordnance Survey maps.

How will I be assessed?

National 4 is assessed internally with pupils requiring to complete an AVU too. National 5 candidates will sit an SQA exam in May and will also complete an assignment based upon fieldwork and research. The exam is 80 marks and the assignment is worth 20 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?

Pupils taking National 5 can progress to Higher Geography.

Jobs where geography is essential or useful

Geography students are highly valued due to their analytical and problem solving skills. Some specific jobs include, land economist, meteorologist, estate manager, surveyor, countryside ranger, planner, farmer, transport consultant, police officer, travel agent, tour operator, sales and marketing and, of course, geography teacher!