

# GCSE Geography



# Why Should I Study Geography?

- Geography will help you understand your place in the world
- Develop a wide range of transferable skills
- Dynamic and relevant subject
- Become a global citizen



# What Will I Study?



- Physical Geography
  - Hazards: Earthquakes, Hurricanes & Climate Change
  - Ecosystems: Rainforests & Deserts
  - UK Landscapes: Rivers & Coasts
- Human Geography
  - Urban Environments: Rio & Bristol
  - Economic World: Development, Nigeria & the UK
  - Resources: Food, Energy & Water
- Fieldwork
  - Pre-release information
  - Fieldwork



# What Will Geography Lessons Be Like?

- Fun, engaging lessons with a focus on exam skills
- Group work, paired work, discussions, research tasks
- Relevant and up-to-date examples from all over the world
- A range of resources including articles, videos as well as your own data collection



# How Will I Be Assessed?



- Paper 1: Physical Geography
  - Worth 35% of final grade
  - 1h30, Qs from 1-9 marks
- Paper 2: Human Geography
  - Worth 35% of final grade
  - 1h30, Qs from 1-9 marks
- Paper 3: Skills & Fieldwork
  - Worth 30% of final grade
  - 1h30, Qs from 1-9 marks



# What Does Work Look Like In Geography?

## The Nepal earthquake

Date: 25/04/15 Time: 11:56 Magnitude: 7.9 Focus: 101.0 5.79 Epicentre: 80km Fault: Himalayas Location: Kathmandu, Nepal, 80km from the epicentre.

**Primary effects**  
 What happened immediately?  
 • 9000 people died and 20000 injured - over 8 million affected  
 • 3 million people left homeless when homes were destroyed  
 • Electricity and water supplies, telephones and communications stopped  
 • 14 million people needed food, water and shelter in the days and weeks after the earthquake  
 • 2000 schools, hospitals and hospitals destroyed and hospitals overwhelmed  
 • International aid teams arrived  
 • 50% of urban damaged, requiring food supplies, people's shelter, etc.  
 • Cost of damage estimated: US\$1 billion

**Why was the Nepal earthquake so destructive? What were the key causes?**  
 • 7.9 on the Richter scale  
 • Epicentre 80km from capital city  
 • 70m below the surface  
 • Very severe ground shaking, causing avalanches and landslides  
 • Really close to a destructive plate margin that moves about a year  
 • LIC meaning they needed more support from other countries

**Immediate responses/management**  
 What kind of help was needed immediately? Who provided it?  
 • Rescue teams, water and other supplies arrived quickly from the UK, India and China  
 • Helicopters rescued many people caught in landslides and avalanches  
 • Help a million tents needed to provide shelter for the homeless  
 • Financial aid pledged from many countries  
 • Field hospitals set up to help wounded  
 • 300,000 people migrated from Kathmandu to safer shelter and support, partly by friend

**Longer term responses/management**  
 What was the recovery plan? What type of long term aid was provided and who by?  
 • Roads repaired & landslide cleared  
 • Thousands of homeless people to be rehoused  
 • Better controls on building codes  
 • International conference to discuss reconstruction  
 • Tourism also major source of income

**Secondary effects**  
 What happened after the main event? How did the impact change over time?  
 • Ground shaking triggered landslides and avalanches, blocking roads and disrupting relief efforts  
 • Avalanches on Mount Everest killed at least 19 people - the greatest loss of life on the mountain in a single incident  
 • An earthquake in the Langtang region led to 183 people missing  
 • A landslide blocked the Kali Gandaki River, 70km NW of the capital - many people stranded in case of flooding  
 • The earthquake occurred on a day when the sun was causing a drought

**Future for Nepal?**  
 Building and construction improvements

**Sunspot**  
 Scientists have recently predicted changes in solar activity could be linked to the presence of sunspots. A sunspot is a dark patch that appears from time on the Sun. The number of sunspots increases from a minimum to a maximum and then back to a minimum over a period of about 11 years. This 11-year period is called the sunspot cycle.

**Natural causes**  
 Volcanic activity  
 Volcanic ash can block out the Sun, reducing temperatures on the Earth.  
 The main cause is a short-term impact of volcanic ash on the atmosphere.  
 The first droplets that result from the conversion of sulphur dioxide to sulphuric acid are like tiny mirrors reflecting radiation from the Sun, so we can look a lot longer at our effect the climate for years.

**Human causes**  
 CO<sub>2</sub> accounts for an estimated 60% of the enhanced greenhouse effect. Global concentrations of carbon dioxide has increased by 30% since 1850.  
 • Car exhausts  
 • A greenhouse gas  
 • Deforestation and the burning of wood  
 • Nitrous oxide  
 • Very small concentrations in the atmosphere are up to 300 times more effective in capturing heat than carbon dioxide  
 • Power stations producing electricity  
 • Strong treatment

**Orbital changes**  
 Milutin Milankovic was a Serbian geophysicist and astronomer.

## Study Figure 4. A map showing the track of Hurricane Irma in September 2017.

**Study Figure 2. Information about extreme weather in the UK in March 2016.**

**Figure 2**

**Snow warnings**  
 Yellow:  
 • Some impacts  
 • Disrupted travel  
 Amber:  
 • Severe impacts  
 • Road and rail closures  
 • Potential risks to life and buildings  
 Red:  
 • Dangerous weather  
 • Risk to life  
 • Major disruption to travel and power supplies

**'Beast from the East' causes chaos across Britain.**  
 The killer freeze costs the UK £1 billion per day as transport routes are disrupted by snow and ice. Businesses and schools are forced to close.

**01.4** Suggest how extreme weather in the UK can have economic and social impacts.

**Use Figure 2 and your own understanding.** [6 marks]

It is Figure 2 shows that there is a huge economic impact as a result of extreme weather, and he it says it is costing £1 billion a day. Furthermore, the fact there was a red snow warning shows a large social impact on this is a risk to life. Another example of extreme weather in the UK would be the flooding in December 2015. Economic impacts on a result would have been travel disruption but also damaging, as it cost a lot of money. Social impacts would have been loss of property and production. Also, the Somerset Levels Flooding between 2013-2014. Economic impacts would be 180 million worth of damage, and loss of tourism cost of 200 million. Social impacts would be over 600 homes were flooded, and villages like Muchelney were cut off.

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**The UK will have more severe weather events that have been predicted by climate scientists.**

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# Fieldwork & Trips

- 2 instances of fieldwork (physical and human)
- Completed in one day at Southbourne Beach and Christchurch, Dorset
- International trips to Morocco, Iceland and Italy



# How Do I Find Out More Details?



- Speak to the subject lead: Mr Jackson
- Email: [jacksonj@wallingfordschool.com](mailto:jacksonj@wallingfordschool.com)
- Speak to your geography teacher
- Speak to older students who are already taking the course