

National 4/5 Geography

Geography is an exciting and dynamic subject which explores the relationship between the earth and the people who inhabit it. As the world becomes a smaller place due to advances in technology, it is essential that young people develop an awareness and understanding of what is happening around them. National 4/5 Geography studies physical processes and human interactions at a range of scales from local to global.



The key elements of the course are:

- Human Environments.
- Physical Environments.
- Global Issues.

The key elements of the course will be taught through combined units, allowing pupils to develop a strong understanding of a range of physical and human topics and the ways in which they interact.

The Cairngorms - This unit will focus on all elements of the Cairngorm area from the formation of glacial features, the cost and benefits of National Park status, land use and conflict, weather and climate, impacts of tourism and issues related to rural living and population change. Pupils will develop skills in map work, interpreting diagrams and presentation skills.

Our Changing World - This unit will focus on the changing global population and the challenges this presents, the growth, development and challenges faced by world cities from Dundee to Rio de Janeiro, while also considering the future and sustainability of cities.

Global Issues - The course will cover two of the six Global Issues available at National 4/5 level, these being Climate Change, The Natural Environment, Environmental Hazards, Trade and Globalisation, Tourism and Health. There will be an element of choice for pupils.

Added Value Unit - All pupils at National 4/5 will be required to complete an 'Added Value Unit' (see Assessment below). Pupils will investigate the local area gathering fieldwork data which will then be collated, analysed and written up.

How will you learn?

Pupils will learn in a variety of ways in order to enhance their learning and understanding of Geography while also developing skills. Pupils will develop a problem solving approach, with opportunities for working individually, in pairs and in groups in order to develop confidence in their learning.

Assessment

National 4

- Unit by unit assessment on a pass/ fail basis- this could take the form of end of unit tests, presentations or assessment of a 'visual product' for example a poster, placemat webpage or leaflet
- Pupils will be required to complete an 'Added Value Unit', a piece of coursework, which will involve gathering, processing, analysing and writing up fieldwork data collected in the local area.
- There is no end of year exam for National 4. It is assessed on a pass/ fail basis.

National 5

- Pupils are required to pass each unit. They will be assessed on a pass/ fail basis- this could take the form of end of unit tests, presentations or assessment of a visual product for example a poster, placemat, webpage or leaflet.
- An end of year exam of 1 hour 30minutes and makes up 60 marks.
- Pupils will also sit an Added Value Unit which consists of a 1 hour long controlled assessment making up 20marks, writing up elements of the field work data gathered in the local area. Pupils will have time in class to focus on key elements of this assessment.
- The final result of the course is out of 80 marks is graded A to D.

Homework –all pupils will be expected to complete homework in order to reinforce and develop learning, understanding and skills. Homework will vary from research tasks, completion of exam style questions to project work.

Progression

Success in National 4 Geography could lead on to National 5 Geography

Success in National 5 Geography could lead into Higher Geography and /or Higher Environmental Science. Leading on to Advanced Higher Geography.

This could lead on a wide range of geography or environmental courses available at college and university. A degree in Geography is highly regarded by employers due to the wide range of skills developed throughout the course, for example, report writing , gathering of data, analysis of data and statistics, while also gaining a detailed understanding of the world in which we live and our interaction with it.