



# Higher Geography



## Purpose of the Course

The purpose of Geography is to develop the learners' understanding of our changing world and its human and physical processes. Opportunities for practical activities, including fieldwork, will be encouraged, so that learners can interact with their environment.

The contexts for study are local, national, international and global. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with growing awareness of the impact of human activity on the environment and scarce resources, the study of Geography fosters positive life-long attitudes of environmental stewardship, sustainability and global citizenship. The Higher Geography course will furnish learners with the skills, knowledge and understanding to enable them to contribute effectively to their local communities and wider society.

## Entry Requirements

- Entry into Higher Geography will usually require a pass of a C or above at National 5 Geography. Candidates who have achieved a D at National 5 will be considered after discussions with their teacher.
- Pupils who have not studied Geography before will be expected to have achieved either an A or B pass in a similar related subject (such as History, R.M.P.S, Modern Studies, Environmental Science or English) at Higher level.

## Topics Studied in Higher Geography

There are 3 units covered in Higher Geography, each containing smaller topic areas. The topic areas interlink and provide pupils with a depth and breadth of knowledge in each unit. In addition pupils will develop geographical skills throughout the course that are relevant to all three units.

UNIT	TOPIC	DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC
Physical Environments	Lithosphere	Pupils will study the formation of erosional and depositional features in upland glaciated and coastal landscapes.
	Hydrosphere	Pupils will study the formation of erosional and depositional landscapes by rivers. Pupils will study how water is moved through the global hydrological cycle within a drainage basin. Pupils will also be able to interpret hydrographs and account for the changing shape of the hydrograph due to physical and human factors influencing the hydrological cycle.
	Biosphere	Pupils will study the formation and properties of selected soils including podzol, brown earth and gley soils.
	Atmosphere	Pupils will study the how the earth is heated by the sun and be able to account for the differences in temperature around the world. Pupils will be able to explain how energy is redistributed by atmospheric and oceanic circulation. Pupils will be able to explain the cause, characteristics and impact of the Intertropical Convergence Zone on West Africa.
Human Environments	Population	Pupils will study the methods and problems of population data collection. They will be able to read population pyramids and give reasons for the changes in population. They will be able to explain the consequences of population structure for selected countries. Pupils will study migration patterns, causes and impacts of forced and voluntary migration.
	Rural	Pupils will study the causes, impact and management of rural land degradation in the semi-arid area of the Sahel region of Africa. Pupils will study the way the land is used in upland areas of the U.K the conflicts this creates and the solutions used to manage these conflicts.
	Urban	Pupils will study the reasons for changes in the management of housing and transport in a developed and developing world city. Pupils will investigate the management strategies adopted and evaluate the impact of these strategies.
Global Issues	Global Climate Change	Pupils will study the physical and human causes of climate change. The impacts of climate change both locally and globally. They will analyse the effectiveness of the management strategies used to combat global climate change.
	Development and Health	Pupils will study the use of development indicators and the validity of these indicators. Pupils will study countries at

		different levels of development and be able to give reasons for this. Pupils will study the causes, impacts and management of Malaria in detail as well as the primary healthcare strategies adopted in developing world countries.
Application of Geographical Skills	Skills based questions	Pupils will develop geographical skills throughout the course that will be tested throughout the course and in the final exam. Pupils will be able to interpret and analyse Ordnance Survey maps in association with photographs, cross sections and field sketches. Pupils will be able to research Geographical topics and develop their gathering, processing, interpreting and evaluating skills. Pupils will develop their ability to use and interpret numerical and graphical information from statistics, tables and graphs.

### **External Assessments**

Pupils will sit a final exam in the May exam diet. This exam will cover all 3 units as well as assessing the skills pupils have developed throughout the course.

Although every **unit** will be assessed there is no guarantee that every **topic** area studied will be assessed in the exam. However pupils must be prepared to answer a question on any topic covered.

Total marks for the Higher Geography course is 190 marks. A breakdown of these marks is below.

<b>Assessment/Marks</b>	<b>Breakdown</b>
Exam Paper 1 Physical and Human Environments 100 marks (46%) 1 hour and 50 minutes	Physical Environments – 50 marks
	Human Environments – 50 marks
Exam Paper 2 Global Issues and Geographical Skills 60 marks (27%) 1 hour and 10 minutes	Global Issues – 40 marks
	Geographical Skills – 20 marks
Assignment 30 marks (27%) 1 hour and 30 minutes	Collecting, processing, analysing and presenting data to come to a conclusion
<b>Total Assessment Marks - 190</b>	

## **The Assignment**

The added value assignment is worth 30 marks, 27% of the final grade. The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate your ability to apply your skills, knowledge and understanding that you have developed throughout the course, to research and reach a conclusion about a geographical topic or issue of your choice. This may be related to areas you have studied in class if you wish, but you are free to research any appropriate topic or issue.

In order to complete this assignment you will:

- ◆ identify a geographical topic or issue
- ◆ carry out research, which should include fieldwork where appropriate
- ◆ consider the suitability of the methods and reliability of the sources used
- ◆ process and use a range of information gathered
- ◆ draw on detailed knowledge and understanding of the topic or issue
- ◆ analyse information from a range of sources
- ◆ reach a conclusion supported by a range of evidence on a geographical topic or issue
- ◆ communicate information

In order to carry out research for your assignment you will have the opportunity to complete fieldwork. This is a voluntary part of the course but is strongly advised in order to improve the data collection for your assignment. In previous years the locations have included Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National park, Dalarnock in Glasgow and local investigations in Newton Stewart and Wigtown. The field trip data collection will relate to an area studied in the course and provide candidates with an opportunity to collect data for their assignment as well as a chance to widen and deepen their knowledge of the topics covered in Geography.

The assignment will be written up in an hour and a half under exam conditions. You are able to take two A4 sides of processed information into the assignment to help you write up your assignment. This will include graphs, annotated photos and figures from your data collection to help you back up your information in the assignment with evidence.

## **Homework**

Pupils will be given regular homework on a weekly basis. Homework will consist of past paper questions, research tasks and revision. Pupils are expected to be revising their notes and completing past paper questions regularly in addition to their formal homework.

## **Revision Materials**

Pupils will each have access to the Bright Red Publishing CfE Higher Geography Revision Guide and the Leckie and Leckie Grade A Booster. These will be on loan from the Geography department for the duration of their course and must be returned at the end of the year. This will provide pupils with a comprehensive set of course notes, questions and access to additional online revision materials to supplement their learning.

In addition pupils will be offered a supported study after school class. This will allow them more time to consolidate their learning in a smaller environment. It is strongly recommended to attend supported study.

## **Progression**

Pupils progressing from Higher Geography will be well suited to a Higher level subject in another humanities subject such as History, R.M.P.S or Modern Studies. Pupils will also be well suited to study in Higher Environmental Science, a subject with many cross cutting themes and topics.

The study of Higher Geography will provide pupils with the skills and knowledge to study Geography at university level. More information on university courses related to Geography is available from your Geography teacher and in the Geography classrooms.