

Holmer Green Senior School

Geography

2025-26



Curriculum Intent

Work Hard, Be Kind, Have Passion

Our curriculum intent is to have an ambitious and inclusive curriculum, that empowers our students to become life-long learners and successful global citizens. We want our Geography students to be globally and locally aware, inquisitive thinkers, compassionate members of society equipped with 21st century skills and responsible and sustainable planet inhabitants.

At KS3 aim to promote curiosity about, and passion for, the world. The curriculum has been designed to take students on a learning journey to help them understand the world in the past, present and future. Through the lens of nine key geographical concepts, studying across KS3 will enable students to successfully know, think, and work like a geographer.

At KS4 we follow the AQA GCSE Geography specification which enables a variety of teaching and learning approaches. This exciting and relevant course studies geography in a balanced framework of physical and human themes and investigates the link between them.

At KS5 students develop their knowledge of places, processes and environments at both a local and a global scale through following the A Level Geography programme of study. The curriculum enables students to progress from studying concrete examples to theoretical understanding; to being able to move beyond their own experiences; and to being able to draw conclusions on a range of scales – local regional, national and international. Students will devise their own fieldwork programme, exploring a chosen issue, collecting data and using this to reach a well-reasoned conclusion. Through a well-sequenced curriculum, we intend to embed knowledge and skills that challenge all learners.

HGSS Curriculum Map

Year 7 Geography



Exam Board: N/A		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Careers: Cartographer, Climate Change Analyst, Climatologist, Emergency Management Specialist, Geomorphologist, Geospatial analyst, GIS specialist, Hydrologist. 			Co-Curricular:		Sequencing: Year 8 – topic links – Year 9 – topic links – GCSE – foundation knowledge of economy, climate and resources, A Level transferable skills	
	Autumn 1 What is a Geographer?	Autumn 2 What is a Geographer? Earth' Natural Resources	Spring 1 Earth's Natural Resources What is an Economy?	AP1	Spring 2 What is an Economy?	Summer 1 What is weather and climate?	Summer 2 What is it like to live in an extreme environment?	AP2
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The history of Geography and mapping A Geographers toolkit Locational knowledge (global/UK) Sense of place development OS mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Earth's spheres and how they interact How rocks and soils form and their importance to life How each sphere provide natural resources Sustainable resource use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic activities and what they are like at different scales, from local to global The range of jobs people do and how jobs have changed over time 	<p>Key terms, knowledge, map skills, interpretation skills, judgement skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic activities and what they are like at different scales, from local to global The range of jobs people do and how jobs have changed over time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The concepts of weather and climate. The elements that make up the weather and climate. How the weather is measured. Microclimate enquiry - fieldwork 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The different opportunities and challenges of living in an extreme environment. Understanding the difference between human and physical factors/influences. 	<p>Key terms knowledge, map skills, interpretation skills, judgement skills, presentation and extended writing skills</p>
Skills:	Atlas mapping, OS mapping, Photographs, GIS, Numeracy, Graphicacy, Decision-making				Atlas mapping, OS mapping, Photographs, GIS, Numeracy, Graphicacy, Decision-making, Fieldwork			

HGSS Curriculum Map

Year 8 Geography



Exam Board: N/A		Careers: Town or Transport planning, Surveying, Conservation, Sustainability, Waste and Water management, Environmental Planning, Tourism, and Weather Forecasting.		Co-Curricular:		Sequencing: Year 8 – topic links – Year 9 – topic links – GCSE – foundation knowledge of economy, climate and resources, A Level transferable skills		
	Autumn 1 Physical Landscapes - Rivers	Autumn 2 Physical Landscapes - Rivers Differences in Development	Spring 1 Differences in Development People, People, Everywhere	AP1	Spring 2 People, People, Everywhere	Summer 1 When the land meets the sea	Summer 2 How is Asia being transformed?	AP2
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What rivers are and how water flows into them How weathering, erosion and transportation create river landforms Identifying river landforms on OS maps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To compare development around the world. To understand where and why inequality occurs. To understand the actions taken by individuals, governments and communities to aid development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World population distribution and change. How countries attempt to control population change. Migration 	Key terms, knowledge, map skills, interpretation skills, judgement skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World population distribution and change. How countries attempt to control population change. Migration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand how erosion, deposition and transportation create and change coastal landforms over time. To understand the need for, and impact of, different coastal management strategies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asia's diverse physical and human geography How Asia is a continent of dynamic change The changing relationship between Asia and the rest of the world 	Key terms knowledge, map skills, interpretation skills, judgement skills, presentation and extended writing skills
Skills:	Atlas mapping, OS mapping, Photographs, GIS, Numeracy, Graphicacy, Decision-making				Atlas mapping, OS mapping, Photographs, GIS, Numeracy, Graphicacy, Decision-making			

HGSS Curriculum Map

Year 9 Geography



Exam Board: AQA		Careers: Construction manager, Landscape architect, Market researcher, Nature conservation officer, Political risk analyst, Sustainability consultant and Transport planner		Co-Curricular:		Sequencing: Year 8 – topic links – Year 9 – topic links – GCSE – foundation knowledge of hazards, desertification, development and climate change. A Level transferable skills		
	Autumn 1 Earth's Natural Hazards	Autumn 2 Earth's Natural Hazards Exploring Africa	Spring 1 Exploring Africa	AP1	Spring 2 How has ice shaped the planet?	Summer 1 How has ice shaped the planet? Why is the Middle East an important region?	Summer 2 Why is the Middle East an important region? How could climate change impact the future?	AP2
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The theory of plate tectonics How volcanoes and earthquakes are linked to plate tectonics The hazards for people associated with these events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The physical and human geography of Africa Africa's colonial history Some of the challenges and opportunities facing the continent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The physical and human geography of Africa Africa's colonial history Some of the challenges and opportunities facing the continent 	Key terms, knowledge, map skills, interpretation skills, judgement skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How ice changes the world How erosion and transportation create glacial landforms How the distribution of ice around the world changes through time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locate the Middle East and its countries Identify key features of the Middle East's physical landscape, climate, environments, population distribution and economy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The climate change is a controversial issue affecting the future of the planet About the evidence of climate change The causes and consequences of climate change 	Key terms knowledge, map skills, interpretation skills, judgement skills, presentation and extended writing skills
Skills:	Atlas mapping, OS mapping, Photographs, GIS, Numeracy, Graphicacy, Decision-making				Atlas mapping, OS mapping, Photographs, GIS, Numeracy, Graphicacy, Decision-making			

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Year 10 Geography



Exam Board: AQA			Careers: Architectural technologist, Business analyst, Cartographer, Data analyst, Environmental consultant, Geographical information systems officer, Marketing executive, Secondary school teacher, Social researcher, Town Planner		Co-Curricular: field work London and Bournemouth.		Sequencing: Links to KS3 curriculum – continent studies and physical processes Links to A Level – Hazards/Coasts/Global Systems and Governance	
	Autumn 1 Challenge of Natural Hazards - Tectonics	Autumn 2 Weather Hazards and Climate Change	Spring 1 Changing Economic World	AP1	Spring 2 Nigeria and UK Economy	Summer 1 Physical Landscapes in the UK Coasts	Summer 2 Urban Issues and Challenges	AP2
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural Hazards pose major risks to people and property Tectonic hazards occur across the world distributed mainly along plate boundaries. These events are experienced and responded to by LIC and HIG countries in contrasting ways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change is the result of natural and human factors and has a range of effects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are global variations in economic development and quality of life. Various strategies exist for reducing the global development gap. 	AQA past Exam paper based on topics studied to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UK has a range of diverse landscapes. Distinctive coastal landforms are the result of rock type, structure and physical processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UK has a range of diverse landscapes. Distinctive coastal landforms are the result of rock type, structure and physical processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A growing percentage of the world's population lives in urban areas. Urban growth creates opportunities and challenges for cities in LICs and NEEs. 	EOY Mock Exam using AQA exam questions based on topics studied to date
Skills:	Cartographic, Numerical, Statistical, Analytical, Qualitative, Decision-making, Evaluation, Assessment				Cartographic, Numerical, Statistical, Analytical, Qualitative, Decision-making, Evaluation, Assessment			

HGSS Curriculum Map

Year 11 Geography



Exam Board: AQA		Careers: Architectural technologist, Business analyst, Cartographer, Data analyst, Environmental consultant, Geographical information systems officer, Marketing executive, Secondary school teacher, Social researcher, Town Planner			Co-Curricular: field study-Bournemouth and London		Sequencing: KS3 – themes linked to resources/rivers/forming a judgement A Level topic links – Coasts/Fieldwork/Population	
	Autumn 1 The Challenge of Resource Management	Autumn 2 Physical Landscapes in the UK – Rivers/The Living World	Spring 1 The Living World/Fieldwork/Unseen Fieldwork	AP1	Spring 2 Issue Evaluation/Revision	Summer 1 Exam preparation	Summer 2 Examinations continue	AP2
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food, water and energy are fundamental to human development. The changing demand and provision of resources in the UK create opportunities and challenges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The shape of river valleys changes as rivers flow downstream. Distinctive fluvial landforms result from different physical processes. Ecosystems exist at a range of scales and involve the interaction between biotic and abiotic components. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tropical rainforest ecosystems. Hot desert ecosystems Students will be expected to: Apply knowledge and understanding to interpret, analyse and evaluate information and issues related to geographical enquiry.. 	<p>Year 11 Mock Exam Full Paper 2 – Followed by Mini Mocks to complete Full Paper 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This element contributes a critical thinking and problem-solving element to the assessment structure. A resource booklet will be available twelve weeks before the date of the exam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer exams begin 		<p>Paper 1 mock exam. Three x 30-minute assessments based on physical topics</p> <p>Delivered in SPR2</p>
Skills:	Cartographic, Numerical, Statistical, Analytical, Qualitative, Decision-making, Evaluation, Assessment				Cartographic, Numerical, Statistical, Analytical, Qualitative, Decision-making, Evaluation, Assessment			

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Year 12 Geography



Exam Board: AQA		Careers: Architectural technologist, Business analyst, Cartographer, Data analyst, Environmental consultant, Geographical information systems officer, Marketing executive, Secondary school teacher, Social researcher, Town Planner			Co-Curricular: Sicily trip Easter 2025		Sequencing: GCSE – Hazards, population KS3 – knowledge and understanding of processes and distribution of resources	
	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	AP1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2	AP2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changing Places Water and Carbon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changing Places Water and Carbon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changing Places Water and Carbon Population and the Environment Coastal Systems 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population and Environment Coastal Systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population and Environment Coastal Systems NEA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Systems and Governance Hazards NEA 	
Content (Topic outlined in full – teaching spread across timescales above)	Changing Places <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nature and importance of places Changing places – relationships, connectives, meaning and representation Relationships and connections Meaning and Representation 	Water and Carbon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Water Cycle The Carbon Cycle Water, Carbon and life on earth 	Population and Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food production and food security Global Health Malaria Asthma Population changes Migration change Global population, the future Case studies Population changes in Iran Relationships between place and health 	AQA A Level Exam paper based on first 2 topics	Coastal Systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coasts as a natural system Systems and processes Coastal landscape development 	NEA Independent investigation	Hazards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The concept of hazards in a geographical context Plate Tectonics Volcanic hazards Seismic hazards Storm hazards Fires in nature Global Systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Globalisation Global systems International trade and access to markets Geographical Conflicts The ‘global commons’ Antarctica as a global common Globalisation critique 	EOY 12 Exam 2.5 hours based on topics covered in Year 12 – AQA past exam questions
Skills:	Cartographic, Numerical, Statistical, Analytical, Qualitative, Decision-making, Evaluation, Assessment				Cartographic, Numerical, Statistical, Analytical, Qualitative, Decision-making, Evaluation, Assessment			

HGSS Curriculum Map

Year 13 Geography



	Exam Board: AQA		Careers: Architectural technologist, Business analyst, Cartographer, Data analyst, Environmental consultant, Geographical information systems officer, Marketing executive, Secondary school teacher, Social researcher, Town Planner		Co-Curricular: Sicily trip- Easter 2025		Sequencing: GCSE – Coasts, po-population, globalisation KS3 – knowledge and understanding of processes and distribution of resources/people	
	Autumn 1 • Global Systems and Governance • Hazards • NEA	Autumn 2 • Global Systems and Governance • Hazards • NEA	Spring 1 • Global Systems and Governance • Hazards • NEA	AP1	Spring 2 • Global Systems and Governance • Hazards • NEA	Summer 1 Revision/Revisiting Year 12 Topics	Summer 2	AP2
Content (Topic outlined in full – teaching spread across timescales above)	Hazards • The concept of hazards in a geographical context • Plate Tectonics • Volcanic hazards • Seismic hazards • Storm hazards • Fires in nature	Global Systems • Globalisation • Global systems • International trade and acces to markets • Geographical Conflicts • The ‘global commons’ • Antarctica as a global common • Globalisation critique	NEA Independent investigation	Mock Exams in Physical and Human Geograp hy – 2.5 hours – full AQA past exam papers	Continuation of topics already listed	All human and physical topics	• Summer examinations	Two 60-minute tasks in class. Content determined by mock exam attainment and progress. Delivered in SPR2
	Cartographic, Numerical, Statistical, Analytical, Qualitative, Decision-making, Evaluation, Assessment				Cartographic, Numerical, Statistical, Analytical, Qualitative, Decision-making, Evaluation, Assessment			