

Supporting Your Learner

Advanced Higher Geography

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Course Outline

In Advanced Higher Geography pupils study two main areas;

- **Geographical Skills Unit** - The general aim of this Unit is to develop independent geographical research skills, apply a wide range of research, methods and fieldwork techniques, apply an appropriate statistical technique in a geographical context, apply an appropriate mapping technique in a geographical context.
- **Geographical Issues Unit** - The general aim of this Unit is to develop critical thinking and the ability to evaluate viewpoints using evidence from a wide range of sources on complex, current geographical issues.

Pupils will also learn new fieldwork skills from their trip to Kindroggan which will support them with their geographical study. They will also research, using secondary sources, a geographical issue of their choice. The study and issue account for 67%. Candidates will also undertake a final SQA exam which is worth 33% and will be comprised of skills based questions on three skill areas of study which are stated in the next section.

Pupils will also have to complete a range of unit assessments throughout the year to gain the outcomes that they need to have achieved before they can sit the examination.

This course is an excellent course to prepare pupils for university, as it is expected that pupils carry out a lot of their own independent learning and research throughout the year.



Exam Preparation

Throughout the year, pupils should be looking over their notes from class and creating mind maps and summary notes to help them. They should also focus on practising past paper questions and comparing their answer to the SQA marking scheme which can be found on the SQA past paper website. It is also important that pupil's practise different questions to identify the command words and what they mean. The exam is out of 50 marks and pupils have 2 hours and 30 minutes to complete it. They should therefore be aware that for each question they have 3 minutes per mark. It is therefore crucial that when pupils are practising past paper questions that they do so under timed conditions. Pupils can hand in questions to be marked at any point throughout the year. The questions or sub-questions will cover the three skill areas of **Map Interpretation, Gathering and Processing Techniques, and Geographical Data Handling**, using relevant accompanying supplementary items.



Useful Websites

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/48465.html> - SQA curriculum outline and assessment information

Useful Textbooks

Revision Guides

Skills and Techniques for Geography A-Level – Garrett Nagle with Michael Witherick
Fieldwork - First Hand: Close Look at Geography Fieldwork – Peter Glynn

Revision Classes

Thursday lunchtime 1:30-2:00 – Miss Jeffrey



SQA Past Papers

Below is a link to the past papers and marking schemes for Advanced Higher geography. It should be noted that the majority of the past papers found here are from the old higher so pupils should check with the teacher which questions they can use before attempting.

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm?subject=Geography&level=AH>

Understanding Standards

The link below to the SQA website will allow you to see where markers have awarded marks to exemplar papers and read the markers' comments on the candidate's response. It is especially helpful in identifying where marks are awarded for analysis and for knowledge. This will become available to Advanced Highers after the first year has been completed (2015-2016).

<http://www.understandingstandards.org.uk/Subjects/Geography>

