

## Curriculum Progression Pathway for **Geography**

### Subject **Intent** (vision):

The study of geography at George Pindar School aims to **take pupils beyond** and **build upon their own experience** to **foster a sense of wonder and fascination for their world**. The study of geography helps pupils **make sense of a complex and dynamically changing world**. It explains where places are, how places and landscapes are formed, how people and their environment interact, and how a diverse range of economies, societies and environments are interconnected. It builds on pupils' own experiences to investigate places at all scales, **from the personal to the global**, helping them to see connections between places and scales.

This *spatial / relational thinking* will help pupils **appreciate the different perspectives and standpoints of stakeholders towards contemporary global issues**. In broadening pupils' knowledge of the world, fostering a sense of place and developing their empathy, values and perspectives Geography contributes towards the *school and Trust's aims of developing pupils as thoughtful, responsible, informed members of the local, national and international community*.

Geography embeds the values of global citizenship and responsibilities by teaching a holistic view of contemporary world challenges, at a **range of scales** and from a **range of perspectives**. The intrinsic value of nature, the equity rights of shared natural resources and an appreciation of how human activity is affected by and relies on the functioning of natural systems, fosters pupils' awareness of their wider **responsibilities** and the **impacts of their choices**, as **global citizens**. The spectrum of development, at a range of scales, alongside considerations of **sustainability** underpins the range of conflicting interests / perspectives and possible futures, from which pupil's need to make judgements and justify their decisions (**empathy – aligned with Pindar values**).

Geography is directly relevant to pupils' lives and the world of work in preparing pupils to live in a diverse and dynamic global community. As a multi-disciplinary subject geography prepares pupils for **further education** and the **world of work** with a variety of procedural skills (such as interpreting and analysing spatial relationships on digital mapping) or disciplinary knowledge in terms of questioning, analysing and justifying conclusions / decisions.

Geography aims to equip pupils with the knowledge and skills to become **critical thinkers** and **decision makers** to engage with contemporary world challenges, whilst appreciating the range of perspectives which necessitate a spectrum of alternative futures and solutions.

**Why is the study of Geography important?**

**Learners:**

Geography is an inclusive subject as it bridges the social and physical sciences. Cross curricular transferable knowledge and skills enable pupils to build greater schema by building on prior knowledge and experiences gained between other subjects and geography. Geography is equally ambitious as the scope of geography is complex, so the discipline inherently engages stretch and challenge.

**Substantive Knowledge:**

Geography is “the integrated study of complex relationships between human societies and the physical world. Geographers study place, space and time, recognising the differences and dynamics in cultures, political systems, economies, landscapes and environments across the world, and the links between them”.

Geography prepares young people with the knowledge, skills and understanding to make sense of and to contextualise their place in the world and to face the challenges that will shape our societies and environments at the local, national and global scales.’ In relation to scale it makes it possible for students to become aware of how their own actions are connected to people and environments in other places.

Fostering their sense of place and contextualising their place in the world.

**Skills – procedural and disciplinary - transferrable to the world of work:**

Geography develops disciplinary knowledge and procedural skills that are often required in the world of work.

**Values:**

Geography engages in contemporary challenges and issues – such as climate change - at a range of scales and from a range of perspectives. Thought-provoking aspects of geography develop pupils’ empathy, values and perspectives encouraging pupils to be responsible citizens and ensuring that they appreciate their role and impact on the world.

**What skills will the study of Geography teach you?**

**Geographical skills (*Procedural knowledge*):**

KS3 PoS: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/239087/SECONDARY\\_national\\_curriculum\\_-\\_Geography.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/239087/SECONDARY_national_curriculum_-_Geography.pdf)  
AQA GCSE <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035>

**Cartographic skills:** *Interpreting spatial representations – building to spatial thinking in analysing spatial relationships using a variety of maps at different scales.*

- Globes, atlases and Ordnance Survey maps (associated skills), topographical and thematic mapping
- Interpret aerial and satellite photographs and in association with maps
- Use Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to view, analyse and interpret places and data

**Graphical skills:**

- Interpret, select, construct and extract information from a variety of appropriate graphs and charts

**Numerical skills:**

- Interpret numerical data in a variety of forms, including relating to maps and fieldwork
- Appreciating levels of accuracy and reliability of data
- Draw informed conclusions from numerical data

**Statistical skills:**

- Use appropriate measures of central tendency (median, mean, range, quartiles and inter-quartile range, mode and modal class)
- Calculate percentage increase or decrease
- Describe relationships in bivariate data: sketch trend lines through scatter plots, draw estimated lines of best fit, make predictions, interpolate and extrapolate trends
- Be able to identify weaknesses in selective statistical presentation of data

**Fieldwork (enquiry):** 15% of GCSE grade

*Procedural knowledge* in conducting an enquiry process includes: the suitability of an enquiry question and location of data collection, appropriateness of data selection – sampling and measuring – recording, justifying choice of data presentation techniques, analysing results (including statistical techniques), drawing a justified conclusion and evaluating the enquiry process.

**Disciplinary knowledge – think like a geographer - culminates at GCSE with the Issue Evaluation:**

- **Critical thinking** – analysis / evaluation / validity / range of perspectives / alternative futures
- **Relational (synoptic) thinking** to a contemporary geographical issue. This requires students to apply understanding of the inter-relationships between physical and human processes and to interpret, analyse and evaluate the information in an extended piece of writing. Sources could include maps at different scales, diagrams, graphs, statistics, photographs, satellite images, sketches, extracts from published materials, and quotes from different / conflicting interest groups, from which pupils consider and select a possible option in relation to the issue(s) and justify their decision.

At GCSE - AO3 (35% inc. 10% applied to fieldwork contexts): Application of knowledge and understanding to interpret, analyse, evaluate and discuss geographical information and issues to make judgements (justify).

AO4 (25% inc. 5% fieldwork data contexts): Select, adapt and use a variety of skills and techniques to investigate questions and issues and communicate findings.

**Literacy skills:**

- communicate geographical information, including through **writing at length**.
- Subject **vocabulary**
- Hierarchy of **command words** for questioning / assessments

**What will you **know** and **understand** from your study of Geography?**

**Substantive knowledge** sets out the content that is to be learned. The national curriculum and GCSE specifications presents this through 4 interrelated forms:

- locational knowledge
- place knowledge
- human / physical and environmental processes
- geographical skills, including fieldwork (*procedural knowledge*) – as above

**Locational and place knowledge:**

Deepens pupils' spatial awareness of the world's countries using maps of the world to focus on Africa, Russia, Asia (including China and India), and the Middle East, focusing on their environmental regions, including polar and hot deserts, key physical and human characteristics, countries and major cities. Understand geographical similarities, differences and links between places through the study of human and physical geography of a region within Africa,

and of a region within Asia.

At GCSE AO1 (15%): Knowledge of locations – identify / describe places, processes, environments and different scales. Case studies x8: broad in context and require greater breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding. Examples x12: focused on a specific event or situation, smaller in scale and less degree of content. Place studies go beyond the areas prescribed in the KS3 curriculum for greater depth and breadth of world knowledge.

### **Human and physical geography:**

Understand, through the use of detailed place-based exemplars at a variety of scales, the key processes in:

- physical geography relating to: geological timescales and plate tectonics; rocks, weathering and soils; weather and climate, including the change in climate from the Ice Age to the present; and glaciation, hydrology and coasts.
- human geography relating to: population and urbanisation; international development; economic activity in the primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary sectors; and the use of natural resources
- understand how human and physical processes interact to influence, and change landscapes, environments and the climate; and how human activity relies on effective functioning of natural systems.

At GCSE AO2 (25%): Conceptual understanding – explain / outline patterns and processes and the interrelationships between physical and human places, environments and processes.

Optionality selected within Paper 1: Living with the physical environment: Section B: The Living World: hot deserts studied and Section C: Physical Landscapes in the UK: coasts and rivers studied.

Optionality selected within Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment: Section C: Resource management: Water studied.

Within KS4 the increasing complexity of the disciplinary knowledge (the ability to comprehend the connections between ideas - synoptic links) is extended to applying and critiquing theories and models to understand / explain complex patterns and processes.

### **How does your study of Geography support your learning in other subjects?**

**Generic transferable skills (*procedural knowledge*):** strengthening pupils' schemata across other subjects:

- **Literacy** – command words / structuring paragraphs (extended writing) / analytical writing / perspectives and viewpoints / reading and comprehension / SPaG.
- **History** – historical maps and data.

- **Numerical** – data / statistical skills/ graphical skills
- **Science** – fieldwork enquiry methods and processes.
- **PE** – map reading for orienteering (direction and distance) – spatial cognition.

**Transferable (substantive) knowledge - repeated encounters of core concepts:**

- **Science** – transferable *substantive* knowledge and vocabulary and *disciplinary* knowledge – critical analysis and validating perceived knowledge / conclusions / dynamic nature of subject knowledge open to “change”.
- **History** – transferable knowledge and disciplinary knowledge – critical analysis and validating perceived knowledge.
- **RE** – empathy and perspectives (social and moral values; including appreciating nature)
- **Art** – different context of transferrable vocabulary – primary / secondary / tertiary and visualisation of patterns / shading to facilitate map reading.

How can you **deepen** your **understanding** of geography?

**Within class:**

- **Spiralling curriculum:** making links with prior knowledge, between topics (**synoptic – relational thinking**) and future learning.
- Learning through relevant **place examples / case studies**.
- **Questioning:** (*think like a geographer*) - Spatial thinking and disciplinary knowledge (critical thinking) – appreciating the value of the subject matter
- **Cross curricular links:** building schema through applying transferable knowledge and skills in a different context.
- **Careers links:** appreciating the relevance of the subject matter to the world of work.

**Wider cultural capital (enrichment activities): - link to Pindar Values (Proud and aspirational):**

- Local events involving **action groups** – such as surfers against sewage / beach cleans / climate change.
- Referencing local examples such as Scarborough’s regeneration bid for the Town centre / Scarborough’s seaweed farming  
<https://www.seagrown.co.uk/>
- Referencing or visits / guest speakers from local role models
- Visits from **organisations** e.g. **Anglo American / Rotunda museum / NYM education service**
- Linking Geography content to **current affairs** in the **news**.
- British Values Active citizenship with **charitable work** / NGOs
- **Fieldwork** - encounter geographical concepts first-hand and connect learning in classrooms with the complexity of the real world.

### How can geography **support** your **future**?

As geography is multi-disciplined it offers a wide breadth and depth of transferable skills and knowledge, allowing for a variety of further education and career pathways. Geography degree course routes post A levels include:

- Physical Geography (BSc) degrees – generic or specific (e.g. meteorology / hydrology)
- Human Geography (BA) degrees – generic or specific (e.g. vocational – town planning)
- GIS – linked to hazard and risk management for insurance / utility and housing companies
- Environmental science – pollution / land management (e.g. <https://www.askham-bryan.ac.uk/>)

Similarly, the disciplinary knowledge of **critical thinking** (analysing / evaluating from a range of perspectives / justifying and validating conclusions and decisions) are highly sought after by most employers. Geographers are well placed to apply this due to a perspective of global challenges from a spectrum of conflicting opinions and alternative futures that require a range of solutions. Such holistic thinking is necessitated by local employers such as **GCHQ** and **Anglo American**.

<https://www.geography.org.uk/Jobs-and-careers-in-geography>

<https://www.rgs.org/iamageographer/>

### Exam board used in Y10 & Y11

AQA GCSE Geography

### CURRICULUM PROGRESSION PATHWAY **2025-2026**

	<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Year 10</b>	<b>Year 11</b>
	"What are the key physical	"Does humanity live	"How globally connected		



	and human processes on our planet?"	sustainably with the environment?"	is the world?"		
<b>Autumn 1</b>	<p><b><u>Unit 1: Geography and me</u></b></p> <p>Introducing geography at personal, local, and national scales. Contextualises students' locale using a variety of maps to study key physical and human characteristics of the British Isles, including how early and modern migration has shaped the UK.</p>	<p><b><u>Unit 1: River Rivals</u></b></p> <p>Drainage basin features and how humans rely on and impact river systems. How population growth can lead to pressure on resources and resource rivalry (water insecurity), focusing on the River Nile basin.</p>	<p><b><u>Unit 1: Global Oceans</u></b></p> <p>Characteristics of oceans, ocean governance and implications for resource use and marine protection. How oceans influence global environmental systems, such as marine biomes and climate change</p>	<p>Paper 1: Living with the physical environment: Section A: The Challenges of Natural Hazards - <b>Tectonic Hazards</b></p> <p>Paper 1: Living with the physical environment: Section A: The Challenges of Natural Hazards - <b>Weather Hazards</b></p>	<p>Paper 3: Geographical Applications: Section B: <b><u>Fieldwork (physical)</u></b> Enquiry skills of: suitability of enquiry questions and locations, appropriateness of data collection, justifying data presentation techniques, analysing results, drawing a justified conclusion and evaluation.</p> <p>Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment: Section A: <b>Urban Challenges</b> - NEE case study (India - <b>Mumbai</b>) / UK major city case study – <b>London</b></p>
<b>Autumn 2</b>	<p><b><u>Unit 2: Our Planet</u></b></p> <p>Introduces students to important physical and human processes, at the global scale. This unit aims to introduce the different 'spheres' of activity on planet Earth (tectonic, atmospheric, hydrological, biological, and human activity).</p>	<p><b><u>Unit 2: Food and Famine</u></b></p> <p>Physical and human factors influencing food security, at a range of scales and strategies to reduce food insecurity.</p>	<p><b><u>Unit 2: Ocean Ecosystems and governance</u></b></p> <p>Ocean tectonics and associated hazards. Human activity – such as waste and fishing, the Law of the Seas and political tensions.</p>	<p>Paper 1: Living with the physical environment: Section A: The Challenges of Natural Hazards - <b>Weather Hazards cont.</b></p> <p>Paper 1: Living with the physical environment: Section A: The Challenges of Natural Hazards – <b>Climate Change</b></p>	<p>Paper 3: Geographical Applications: Section B: <b><u>Fieldwork (human)</u></b> Enquiry skills of: suitability of enquiry questions and locations, appropriateness of data collection, justifying data presentation techniques, analysing results, drawing a justified conclusion and evaluation.</p> <p>Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment: Section B: <b><u>The Changing Economic World - global development continuum:</u></b></p> <p>Assessing the limitations of indicators used to measure aspects of development and the strategies used to reduce the global development gap, at a range of scales and perspectives.</p>



<b>Spring 1</b>	<p><b><u>Unit 3: Resources and Trade</u></b></p> <p>Uneven distribution of the variety of Earth's natural resources leading to global trade and why some countries are wealthier than others (economic activities).</p>	<p><b><u>Unit 3: Endless Energy</u></b></p> <p>Factors influencing energy security and consumption. Costs and benefits of the energy mix, such as fossil fuels and renewables, at a variety of scales.</p>	<p><b><u>Unit 3: The Global Economy</u></b></p> <p>The rise and fall of industry, and shifting global economies. Globalisation via trade and TNCs and the benefits and costs to people, and impacts to the environment.</p>	<p>Paper 1: Living with the physical environment: Section B: The Living World: <b>Tropical Rainforests</b></p> <p>Paper 1: Living with the physical environment: Section B: The Living World: <b>Hot Desert Environments</b></p>	<p>Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment: Section B: <b><u>The Changing Economic World - case studies (NEE example and UK)</u></b></p> <p>Causes of economic change over time. Consequences of changing economies; at a variety of spatial scales.</p> <p>Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment: Section C: <b><u>Resource Management</u></b></p> <p>Food and energy security</p>
<b>Spring 2</b>	<p><b><u>Unit 4: Brilliant Biomes</u></b></p> <p>Deepen understanding of concepts such as latitude, temperature, water and nutrient cycles to explain the distribution of biomes, and why biodiversity varies between biomes. Appreciate the importance of biomes to the natural world and to people. Appreciate how</p>	<p><b><u>Unit 4: Climate Change</u></b></p> <p>Natural causes of climate change, at a range of temporal scales and evidence. Enhanced greenhouse effect (global warming) and the unequal global impacts. Strategies to adapt to and mitigate global warming.</p>	<p><b><u>Unit 4: Development and disparity</u></b></p> <p>Indicators used to measure development. Factors influencing disparity and strategies used to reduce disparity, at a range of scales (focusing on India).</p>	<p>Paper 1: Living with the physical environment: Section B: The Living World: <b>Hot Desert Environments cont.</b></p> <p>Paper 1: Living with the physical environment: Section C: UK landscapes: <b><u>Coasts</u></b></p>	<p>Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment: Section C: <b><u>Resource Management cont.</u></b></p> <p>Water security: Global inequalities in the supply and consumption of resources. Consequences of resource insecurity and the effectiveness of approaches to managing resource insecurity, in areas of contrasting development.</p>

	human actions can threaten biomes, and why these matter.				
<b>Summer 1</b>	<p><b><u>Unit 5: Fantastic UK Landscapes</u></b></p> <p>Processes that change and shape landscapes over time. The rock cycle which shows the link between igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rock formation. Using a variety of maps to explore the UK's landforms and uneven topography.</p>	<p><b><u>Unit 5: Polar Environments</u></b></p> <p>Distribution and causes of Polar environments. Natural factors and human activities threatening Tundra environments. The impacts at a range of scales, of a threatened Tundra region (focusing on Russia).</p>	<p><b><u>Unit 5: Glacial Landforms and Processes</u></b></p> <p>Glacial processes and landforms. How climate change is causing glacial retreat and contributing to sea level rise, with impacts to people, economies, and environments across the globe.</p>	<p>Paper 1: Living with the physical environment: Section C: UK landscapes: <b><u>Rivers</u></b></p>	<p>Paper 3: Geographical Applications: Section A: <b><u>Issue Evaluation</u></b></p> <p>Synoptic unit where pupils are required to study pre-released information relating to a contemporary geographical issue. The assessment requires students to apply understanding of the inter-relationships between physical and human processes and to interpret, analyse and evaluate the information in an extended piece of writing.</p>
<b>Summer 2</b>	<p><b><u>Unit 6: UK Coasts</u></b></p> <p>Linking geology to coastal processes to explain how coastal landforms change over time.</p>	<p><b><u>Unit 6: The Middle East</u></b></p> <p>Physical and human characteristics of the Middle East region. Linking prior units of resource security, trade and development and sustainability.</p>	<p><b><u>Unit 6: UK Regions Fieldwork Investigation</u></b></p> <p>Revision of geology, coastal / river and glacial landscapes for a comparative fieldwork report focusing on the Lake District and a local area. This practises and develops the skills of fieldwork enquiry.</p>	<p><i>cont.</i> Paper 1: Living with the physical environment: Section C: UK landscapes: <b><u>Rivers cont.</u></b></p> <p>Paper 3: Geographical Applications: Section B: Fieldwork: Introduction and preparation for the physical and human fieldwork enquiries.</p>	