

Section B—Options Choice Subjects

Geography

The course

The geography department currently studies AQA 8035. There are three many areas of study:

Component 1: Living with the physical environment

This unit is concerned with the dynamic nature of physical processes and systems, and human interaction with them in a variety of places and at a range of scales.

This unit aims to develop understanding of the tectonic, geomorphological, biological and meteorological processes and features in different environments, the need for management strategies governed by sustainability and consideration of the direct and indirect effects of human interaction with the Earth and the atmosphere.

Component 2: Challenges in the human environment

This unit is concerned with human processes, systems and outcomes and how these change both spatially and temporally. They are studied in a variety of contexts and at a range of scales. These include places in various states of development, such as higher income countries (HICs), lower income countries (LICs) and newly emerging economies (NEEs).

This unit aims to develop understanding of the factors that produce a diverse variety of human environments; the dynamic nature of these environments that change over time and place; the need for sustainable management; and the areas of current and future challenge and opportunity for these environments.

Component 3: Geographical applications, fieldwork & Geographical skills

The Geographical applications unit is designed to be synoptic in that students will be required to draw together knowledge, understanding and skills from the full course of study. It is an opportunity for students to show their breadth of understanding and an evaluative appreciation of the interrelationships between different aspects of geographical study.

Students need to undertake two geographical enquiries, each of which must include the use of primary data, collected as part of a fieldwork exercise. There should be a clear link between the subject content and geographical enquiries, and the enquiries can be based on any part of the content addressed in the units above.

Students are required to develop and demonstrate a range of geographical skills, including cartographic, graphical, numerical and statistical skills, throughout their study of the specification. Skills will be assessed in all three written exams. Ordnance Survey (OS) maps or other map extracts may be used in any of the three exams.

Assessment

Component 1: Written examination: 90 minutes – 35% of qualification

Component 2: Written examination: 90 minutes – 35% of qualification

Component 3: Written examination: 75 minutes – 30% of qualification

The final award will be grades 1-9 with 9 being the highest.

Where next?

Prepares you for A/AS level geography, sociology, psychology, philosophy, law, business studies, economics, and BTEC Leisure and Tourism.

Careers: armed forces, education, social work, travel industry, journalism, surveying, architecture, environmental sector.