

Geography Higher

Why take this course?

This course provides a coherent progression from National 5 Geography. This course should be of particular interest to students who observe and ask questions about the world around them. Pupils who want to understand the issues currently facing humanity and our planet and have an active role in solving and managing them will enjoy this course. The literacy, numeracy and analytical skills developed during this course are transferable across subjects and will be invaluable for life, learning and work.

By studying the course you will develop and extend:

- Knowledge and understanding of the physical processes that shape, create and sustain planet earth.
- Knowledge and understanding of how human activities impact the environment and the importance of sustainable management of these.
- Critical thinking skills, as you evaluate the effectiveness of current environmental management strategies and participate in decision making tasks that are based on current geographical issues.
- Analytical skills as you learn to interpret geographical data that has been presented in multiple ways including a wide variety of maps, graphs and diagrams.

To succeed in this course, you need...

- You would normally be expected to have National 5 Geography at Grades A-C.
- Good and improving numeracy and literacy skills.
- Commitment, personal organisation and study skills. To do well in this course, you need to be prepared to work hard in your own time. You will have weekly reading, course work and exam style questions to complete. It will be your responsibility to keep up with the class by effective use of your study time within and out with school.
- Prospective “crash” Higher students need to have Higher and National 5 passes in subjects that demonstrate sound numeracy and literacy skills as well as capacity to retain knowledge and analyse information effectively.

Course structure and content (subject to change by SQA)

The course is comprised of 3 units and an assignment:

1. Physical Environments: Atmosphere, Biosphere, Lithosphere and Hydrosphere Topics
2. Human Environments: Urban Change, Population and Rural Topics
3. Global Issues: River Basin Management and Development and Health Topics

Assignment students undertake an independent study to investigate a geographical topic or issue of interest to them. We collect primary data for a river study during a day field trip to Hoy. Students work independently to process and analyse the data. The write up is then completed under exam conditions.

Course Assessment

- 2 Exam papers (worth 73% of the total course award). The first covers the physical and human environment units (1hr 50mins) and the second global issues and decision making (1hr10mins).
- Assignment (worth 27% of the total course award).

Where might this course take me?

The skills developed and knowledge gained are relevant for all students. Geography can help students with entry requirements for courses in both Science and the Arts. Geography is particularly useful for those wishing to pursue career paths in business, government, environment, charity, education or transport and construction.

Passing this course with Grade A or B is recommended in order to progress on to the Advanced Higher Geography course.