

## **Geography**

### **National 4 National 5**

#### **Why take this course?**

By studying Geography you will learn about other places, peoples and cultures. You will study areas in Scotland and the UK as well as in other countries. Environmental and global issues such as renewable energy, conservation of the rainforests, marine pollution, climate change and natural hazards, form an integral part of the course. You will learn about sustainability, your responsibility as a global citizen and also how to improve your map interpretation, reading, writing and thinking skills.

#### **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 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...**

- For entry into N4/N5 pupils will usually have studied Geography in S3, although it is possible for a motivated and hard-working student to study this course without having done so.
- Commitment, personal organisation and study skills. To do well in this course, you need to be prepared to work hard in your own time and complete the homework set and practise exam style questions.
- An interest in learning about the environment around you as well as about other places and cultures will help you to succeed.

#### **Course structure and content (subject to change by SQA)**

The course is comprised of 3 units and an assignment:

1. Physical Environments: Rivers, Limestone landscapes and Weather Topics
2. Human Environments: Urban, Population and Rural Topics
3. Global Issues: Natural environments and Climate Change Topics

**Assignment** students undertake an independent study to investigate a geographical topic or issue of interest to them. We collect primary data for a land use study during class time in Stromness. Students work independently to process and analyse the data. The write up is then completed under exam conditions.

#### **Course Assessment**

- Exam paper (worth 80% of the total course award) at N5 this is 2hrs and 20mins long.
- Assignment (worth 20% 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 Higher Geography course.