

Geography Advanced Higher

Why take this course?

The purpose of this course is to build on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed by the learner in Higher Geography and to provide a useful bridge towards further study of Geography or a degree course in either the Humanities or Science faculties.

To succeed in this course, you need...

- You would normally be expected to have Higher Geography at Grades A or B.
- Initiative, motivation and organisational skills to engage in independent learning and research. This is because two-thirds of the final grade comes from a completed folio, including an extensive assignment and critical essay that must be completed independently.
- Capacity to understand and analyse statistics. N5 Maths at Grade A or B.
- Good literacy and numeracy skills are essential and will be developed in context throughout the course.

Course structure and content (subject to change by SQA)

The course is divided into **three** main sections. Much of the course will depend on individual study and fieldwork. For highly motivated and committed students the course should prove challenging and rewarding.

In **unit one**, students will learn about various geographical fieldwork methods and techniques. This will include field-based activities as well as time in the classroom. Some class time will also be devoted to analysis of data gathered in the field, from maps, or supplied by geographical information systems (GIS). This unit includes learning about the analysis and interpretation of geographical data, statistics.

In **unit two** candidates carry out a detailed **Geographical Study** which will involve the gathering, analysis and presentation of information collected through personal research. For example, students could research the impact of cruise ships on Kirkwall, following which they must produce a 3000 word written report about their findings. Work on the Geographical Study must be undertaken on a regular basis throughout the year.

In **unit three** candidates research a current global or local **Geographical Issue** and present their findings in a report of no more than 1800 words. Examples of topics which students might study include the link between disease and lack of safe water supplies in developing countries, the introduction of congestion charging into UK cities and the real impact of Climate change. This section of the course involves looking at different points of view relating to the chosen Geographical Issue.

Course Assessment

- **Exam** (worth 1/3 of the total course award). Questions test map interpretation and data handling skills as well as knowledge of fieldwork methods and techniques. I
- **Folio** submitted to SQA for assessment (2/3 of the total course award) Geographical Study and Geographical Issue Critical essay.

Where might this course take me?

The skills developed and knowledge gained are essential for all students moving on to further education or into careers where research and analysis of complex quantitative and qualitative data is required. 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.