

Geography – KS4

<p>What do we teach?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Specification: AQA (8035)</p> <p>Topic One: The Challenge of Natural Hazards Topic Two: Urban Issues and Challenges Topic Three: Living World Topic Four: Economic World Topic Five: UK Physical Landscapes Topic Six: The Challenge of Resource Management</p> <p>Fieldwork: Students also complete fieldwork exploring the regeneration of Stratford and the health of the deciduous woodland at Osterley Park.</p>
<p>Why AQA?</p>	<p>Choosing AQA Geography is beneficial because it offers a well-rounded and engaging curriculum that covers both physical and human geography in a way that connects real-world issues to students' lives. AQA Geography encourages critical thinking and problem-solving, providing students with the tools to understand and analyze global challenges like climate change, urbanization, and economic development. The specification includes a strong focus on geographical skills such as data analysis, map reading, and fieldwork, which are essential for practical learning and future careers. AQA also emphasizes global citizenship and sustainability, helping students gain a deep understanding of interconnections between people, places, and environments. The broad scope of the curriculum makes it a versatile subject, preparing students for a variety of future academic pathways and careers, while also promoting valuable skills applicable across many disciplines.</p>
<p>How does this meet the National curriculum?</p>	<p>The AQA GCSE Geography specification aligns with the National Curriculum by covering a wide range of physical and human geography topics. It ensures students gain locational knowledge, studying countries, cities, and physical landscapes, alongside human geography topics like urbanization and economic activity. The course addresses key themes such as climate change, natural hazards, population, and migration, while emphasizing geographical skills like map reading, data analysis, and fieldwork. By exploring global issues such as sustainability and global interdependence, AQA GCSE Geography provides students with the knowledge and skills required by the National Curriculum, preparing them to understand and tackle contemporary geographical challenges.</p>
<p>Why do we teach in this sequence?</p>	<p>Students will sit three AQA Geography exams at the end of Year 11. The KS4 Geography curriculum at Bolder Academy is ordered around enabling students to make powerful synoptic links between course content, of both a Physical (Paper 1) and Human (Paper 2) nature. Therefore, to enable this, Paper 1 and Paper 2 topics are studied in an alternating sequence throughout both Year 10 and Year 11 This prevents students from seeing the two halves of geography (physical and human) in isolation but instead enables them to draw links between them e.g. between development and global hazards or climate change and resource availability. This then directly supports students with paper three (Geographical applications) which requires students to answer questions based on a pre-release resource booklet which requires them to 'think geographically' and apply their knowledge and understanding to make synoptic links between the different areas of content from the specification.</p>
<p>What career links are made?</p>	<p>GCSE Geography opens the door to a wide range of careers by providing foundational knowledge and skills that are valuable across many industries. Careers linked to geography include urban planning, where professionals work on developing sustainable and well-planned cities; environmental management, focusing on conservation and sustainability efforts; and disaster management, helping communities prepare for and respond to natural hazards. Additionally, geographers can pursue roles in surveying, transportation, and logistics, using spatial analysis and data to optimize systems. Other career paths include roles in research, tourism, government, and education, as well as in fields like market analysis, where geography helps understand consumer behavior and regional trends. The diverse skill set gained through GCSE Geography equips students for careers that require critical thinking, problem-solving, and an understanding of human-environment interactions.</p>

