



PREPARING FOR SUCCESS IN GCSE GEOGRAPHY- PARENTS/CARERS GUIDE

STRUCTURE OF THE GCSE GEOGRAPHY EXAM



Our Year 11 students are sitting the AQA specification –website link below:

<http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/geography/specifications/AQA-8035-SP-2016.PDF>

The GCSE exam is made up of 3 components:

- Paper 1 – Living with the Physical Environment – 35% of GCSE 1hr 30 min exam
- Paper 2 – Living with the Human Environment – 35% of GCSE 1hr 30 min exam
- Paper 3 – Geographical Applications – 30% of GCSE 1hr 15 min exam (this includes some questions based on pre-released materials that will be made available 12 weeks before the Paper 3 exam).

Within the course there are some options that schools have – with regards to the specification, at Stratton we are **NOT** doing Hot Deserts or River Landscapes in the UK in Unit 1 and we are **NOT** doing Water or Energy in Unit 2.

GCSE Geography Help Clinic

Geography help clinic at lunchtimes/ after school (check with your class teacher if you would like to stay after school) in H19 open to any GCSE students.

The room is open to work in or revise- alone or in small groups, and there will always be a member of staff on hand to answer any questions / concerns that students have.

During the revision period, students with any questions or who need help with particular aspects of the course are welcome to come along and speak to staff in these lunchtime sessions, or simply to use the room as revision space.

Revision support resources- It is essential that students undertake thorough revision and preparation themselves. Whilst we will help students with exam technique, with regards to question and answer structure in after school sessions, ***the onus has to be on students to be revising and learning the actual geographical content at home.*** There are many resources that they can use to help them:

- **All teaching resources on Schoology** – PowerPoints etc. for the whole course written by the department and used in our teaching are available to students on the GCSE Geography Schoology course www.schoology.com- all have access to this and should have signed up – they can see their teacher for the code if they haven't yet done so. (This is a good reference point as it includes all the specific case studies and examples we have covered). Also useful if students have any notes missing!

- **BBC Bitesize GCSE Geography AQA**
<https://www.bbc.com/education/examspecs/zy3ptyc>

- **Twitter @Geogstratton** – used to remind you of key ideas / relevant information and from March onwards – revision specific tweets.

- **Revision guide and exam practice booklets-** both of these resources are fully encouraged. Find further information on next page. A timetable has been created for students to use between now and the exams.

- **And of course most importantly – their exercise books!**



There are several commercially produced revision guides available for our course. Having looked into them in depth we have decided that the Oxford revision guide and exam practice booklet are the most accessible and appropriate in supporting the case studies and examples taught. Both books will enable students to develop and extend their knowledge and understanding whilst at the same time supporting with exam technique. Revision guides will be available from the department at a considerable discount and details are on Parentpay.

- GCSE 9-1 Geography AQA Revision Guide (Oxford) - ISBN 978-0-19-842346-1
- GCSE 9-1 Geography AQA Exam Practice (Oxford) - ISBN 978-0-19-842348-5

Please note – revision guides will be helpful for revising key geographical concepts, but these are commercially produced ones and **students should be learning the case studies and examples that we have covered in class students should be using their own class notes to revise these.** All power points and handouts with details of our case studies and examples will be made available to students after February half term – they should use these resources alongside revision guides.

Students should also remember that we are **NOT** studying Hot deserts, River landscapes, Water or Energy options – it is important they stick to any checklists that are given.

KEEPING UP-TO-DATE WITH NOTES

It is really important that students take responsibility for catching up any work missed as all content is in the specification and therefore could be required in an exam. If students do miss a lesson, they are expected to catch up – they can do this either by coming to see their class teacher or by looking at the GCSE Schoology page where all of the lesson PowerPoints can be found.

Staff email addresses:

Ms Parmar: stkparmar@stratton.beds.sch.uk (Head of Department)

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Miss Doig: stkdoig@stratton.beds.sch.uk (Assistant Head of Year 9)

KEY EXAM DATES- SUMMER 2018

22nd May 2018 – Paper 1 Living with the Physical Environment (pm)

1hr 30 minutes

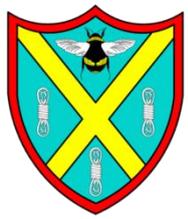
5th June 2018 - Paper 2 Living with the Human Environment (pm)

1hr 30 minutes

11th June 2018 - Paper 3 Geographical Applications paper (pm)

1hr 15 minutes

Over the next few months we will continue to provide support for revision through our twitter feed @Geogstratton. Maintaining a dialogue with your son/daughter's teacher is also invaluable; please do not hesitate to email us with any questions or concerns that you have. We would also encourage students to maintain dialogue with their teachers and be prepared to take responsibility for asking if there is anything they do not fully understand.



Simple advice for students and parents/carers

Advice for students

1. Start revision now! This will help to reduce stress later
2. Organise your notes, make sure nothing is missing and go through the specification checklist.
3. Make a realistic revision timetable that can be stuck to (time available will need to be balanced for the various subjects studied)
4. Productive short bursts of revision should be planned (max one hour at a time) and some relaxation time should be planned in – exercise will also really help!
5. Make sure you learn case studies / examples (a list will be provided by the department) – you will need to ensure you learn facts and figures to back these up)
6. A range of revision strategies should be used – there is some revision advice available for students and links will be posted on our twitter (@Geogstratton) frequently on the run up to the exams with advice and tips for students.

What can you do as parents/carers?

We fully appreciate that there are huge academic and organisational demands on students in the run up to the exam period. Parental support, encouragement and interest can make a huge contribution to student's motivation and most importantly their ability to cope with this.

1. Help them to make a revision plan
2. If possible, try and ensure that there is a quiet space where your son/daughter can work without distractions.
3. Encourage your son/daughter to balance the format of their revision - some might be with pen and paper some might be using revision video resources or using the web-based resources we have produced as a department.
4. It is normal for students to fall behind, start to feel overwhelmed or find it difficult to balance work, school and social demands. Helping them staying positive and talking through these issues as they arise. Helping them get things in perspective is important.
5. Offer to test them on case study detail etc.
6. Above all help to keep them positive and praise their hard work!

There is some useful advice on helping your child revise here: <https://revisionapp.co.uk/gcse-revision-essential-guide-parents/>

The Stratton geography department wishes all GCSE students well in the upcoming exams in geography and all other subjects!