

GEOGRAPHY

The Geography Department is a thriving department which contributes greatly to the overall ethos and success of Thomas Mills. It is a popular subject and enjoys high take up rates at GCSE, AS and A level. The Department is housed in three main teaching rooms two of which have interactive whiteboards and the third has projector with whiteboard.

Key Stage 3

Pupils are taught in mixed ability groups throughout this key stage and are allocated two periods per week. The curriculum is broad ranging and gives pupils a flavour of all aspects of geography. Key geographical skills are integrated into the teaching. We cover a variety of topics over 2 years including:

- Year 7 – Map skills, Weather and Climate, Settlement, Coastal Environments, Comparing Countries (LEDCs and MEDCs), Energy and the Global Environment
- Year 8 – Ecosystems, Population, Plate Tectonics, Global Development, Rivers and flooding, Economic activities

Key Stage 4

Course covered: OCR B (Geography for Enquiring Minds) Specification No: J384

Content - Geography is about making sense of different types of environments and trying to provide solutions to problems.

The types of issues covered are:

The human environment

- Why are some countries richer than others? (DYNAMIC DEVELOPMENT)
- How can we manage the issues of rapid urban growth? (URBAN FUTURES)
- How can we make sure that everyone in the world has enough to eat? (RESOURCE RELIANCE)

The physical environment

- Why do volcanoes erupt, Why do we have weather extremes? (HAZARDS)
- Why is the coastline near us falling into the sea? (COASTS)
- How have humans altered ecosystems? (SUSTAINING ECOSYSTEMS)

The environment:

- Will we run out of natural resources? (RESOURCE RELIANCE)
- What is global warming, will it affect us? (CLIMATE CHANGE)
- Is there more to polar environments than ice? (SUSTAINING ECOSYSTEMS)

Specification Overview

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Hazards • Changing Climate • Distinctive Landscapes • Sustaining Ecosystems • Fieldwork • Geographical Skills 	<p>Our Natural World (01) 70 marks 1 hour 15 minutes Written paper</p>	<p>35% of total GCSE</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Futures • Dynamic Development • UK in the 21st Century • Resource Reliance • Fieldwork • Geographical Skills 	<p>People and Society (02) 70 marks 1 hour 15 minutes Written paper</p>	<p>35% of total GCSE</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographical skills • Decision Making Exercise 	<p>Geographical Exploration (03)* 60 marks</p>	<p>30% of total GCSE</p>

	1 hour 30 minutes Written paper	
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*Indicates inclusion of synoptic assessment

Assessment

For OCR's GCSE (9–1) in Geography B (Geography for Enquiring Minds) learners must take all components.

(Component 01) Our Natural World

35% of the GCSE (9–1) 1 hour 15 minutes Written paper 70 marks*

This question paper has two sections:

- Section A: Questions on all individual topic areas (Global Hazards, Changing Climate, Distinctive Landscapes and Sustaining Ecosystems)
- Section B: Physical Geography Fieldwork.

There will be questions on all topics.

Learners answer all questions.

A separate Resource Booklet is provided with the question paper.

The unit is externally assessed.

Marks associated with geographical skills will be assessed within this component.

*There will be 3 marks for SPaG included in the marks for this component.

(Component 02) People and Society

35% of the GCSE (9–1) 1 hour 15 minutes Written paper 70 marks*

This question paper has two sections:

- Section A: Questions on all individual topic areas (Urban Futures, Dynamic Development, UK in the 21st Century and Resource Reliance)
- Section B: Human Geography Fieldwork.

There will be questions on all topics.

Learners answer all questions.

A separate Resource Booklet is provided with the question paper.

The unit is externally assessed.

Marks associated with geographical skills will be assessed within this component.

*There will be 3 marks for SPaG included in the marks for this component.

(Component 03) Geographical Exploration

30% of the GCSE (9–1) 1 hour 30 minutes Written paper 60 marks*

This question paper has a series of questions focusing on synoptic assessment of material from a range of topics across both Our Natural World (01) and People and Society (02) and will feature a decision-making exercise.

Learners answer all questions.

A separate Resource Booklet is provided with the question paper.

The unit is externally assessed.

Marks associated with geographical skills will be assessed within this component.

*There will be 3 marks for SPaG included in the marks for this component.

For more details on the syllabus, follow <http://www.ocr.org.uk/>

Sixth Form

Geography at AS and A2 level follows the OCR course, specification H083. For full details follow www.ocr.org.uk

There are two modules which make up the AS level, students study topics including:

- **Physical Geography** – Coastal environments and tectonic hazards.
- **Human Geography** – Urban and Rural environments.

The AS and A level course is examined in May.

At the end of the Lower Sixth, the department takes students on a residential field visit to the Peak District. A strong focus on preparation for the coursework element of the A level (worth 20% of overall marks) is placed on this residential field trip.

This also helps to prepare students for the synoptic nature of A2 Geography which consists of the following modules:

- **Global issues – Environmental issues including:** Earth hazards, Atmospheric hazards.
- **Geographical skills** – a written exam based on the skills and statistical techniques needed to conduct individual geographical research, including fieldwork activities. Coursework also contributes to 20% of the A level.

For more details see www.ocr.org.uk

Field work

Working outside on field trips is a joy and essential for a fuller understanding of Geography. Consequently, the geography department endeavours to undertake field work in every year of school life. Currently field work consists of:

1. Year 7 - Town and Church visit (with RE)
2. Year 8 - London field trip
3. Year 9 - Coastal processes – Southwold
4. Year 10 - Urban regeneration – Ipswich Waterfront
5. Year 11 - Sustaining ecosystems – Winterton Sand Dunes
6. Year 12 - Coastal processes – Covehythe and Southwold
Year 12 - Rural & Urban Geography – Debenham & Ipswich
Year 12 - Rivers, urban and tourism – Peak District
7. Year 13 - Geographical Skills – Winterton Sand Dunes