



AS & A2 Geography for AQA

Tailored Courses

Slapton Ley

Please visit
<http://www.field-studies-council.org/outdoorclassroom/geography/aqa/>
for alternative A-level AQA programmes

OVERVIEW

At AS, students will carry out fieldwork to collect case-study material for Unit 1 (Physical and Human Geography) and to develop the skills that are assessed at Unit 2 (Geographical Skills). Unit 2 is a 1 hour exam based on the content of Unit 1 with two questions (both compulsory): a resource-based question and a second question based specifically on the student's own fieldwork. We aim on AS courses to prepare students to answer that fieldwork question effectively.

At A2, students will carry out fieldwork to collect case-study material for Unit 3 (Contemporary Geographical Issues) and for Unit 4A (Geographical Fieldwork Investigation). Unit 4A is assessed in a 1.5 hour exam, which may include questions on any stage of the fieldwork investigation process.

AS OPTIONS

River Harbourne

Students carry out an investigation on changing channel characteristics with distance downstream on the River Harbourne and consider how variables interrelate. By the end of the river investigation all students will have developed river fieldwork skills and have used different methods to collect data, in addition to observing the river landforms present at different sites along the river's course. Data will then be collated and analysed by students using a variety of presentational devices (including scatter graphs) and statistical techniques (including Spearman's Rank). This study will explicitly aim to prepare students for the AS Geographical Skills Paper – Unit 2 (Geog2).

Flooding and Management

Students assess the flood risk posed by different land uses in a drainage basin, relating elements of the water cycle (such as infiltration rates) to river discharge and the likely storm hydrograph of a river. Students will also visit a case study example of river flooding and management on the River Harbourne, where they will be asked to consider the impacts of flooding and observe what can be done to manage a river where flooding is likely.

Population Change in Plymouth

This study develops students' knowledge of human environments within Plymouth. Students will use fieldwork observations to research housing and service provision, and secondary data on ethnicity, age structure and employment to build up a detailed understanding of this environment and how population change has impacted on the area.

Population Change in South Devon

This study develops students' knowledge of human environments within the South Hams. Students will use fieldwork observations to research housing and service provision, and secondary data on ethnicity, age structure and employment to build up a detailed understanding of this environment and how population change has impacted on the area.

Start Bay Coastal Environments

Students carry out fieldwork to assess the impact of coastal processes along Start Bay, (with particular reference to wave type and longshore drift) on beach shape and dimensions and observe a number of coastal

landforms. Different coastal management strategies will be assessed using cost/benefit analyses, in order to compare hard and soft engineering structures. This activity will ensure all students are able to identify and outline advantages and disadvantages of different defences.

A2 OPTIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS

At A2 we can provide fieldwork to support three options, **Weather and Climate and Associated Hazards, Ecosystems: Challenge and Change** and **World Cities. Geography Fieldwork Investigations**, data presentation and analysis skills will be developed during this follow up, preparing students for the Geographical Fieldwork Investigations Paper at A2.

Shingle Ridge Ecosystems

Students carry out an investigation across the shingle ridge successional ecosystem, sampling along a transect to collect data on vegetation, soil and micro-climate. This data is then used to explore how the environment is changing over time. Students will be able to consider the impact of humans on this important conservation area, Slapton Ley National Nature Reserve.

Woodland Ecosystems

Student will study the vegetation and invertebrates in the woodland ecosystem. This will enable them to identify the woodland structure as well as the key characteristics of the climatic climax: the temperate woodland biome. Students will be able to construct food chains, webs and trophic levels. Students will consider the impact of humans on this important conservation area, Slapton Ley National Nature Reserve.

Slapton Line Storm Event 2001

Throughout student's visit to the centre individuals will create a weather diary using a variety of qualitative and quantitative ways to assess the weather. Students will also use a mixture of primary data and long term secondary data sets to analyse the 2001 storm event and its impact on Slapton Sands and the A379. Students will assess the range of coastal defences along Slapton Sands as well as a range of stakeholder views.

Global Climate Change at Prawle Point

Different relic landforms along the Prawle Peninsula will be covered in order to aid students' awareness of how the climate has changed over the last 120,000 years. This study will include the processes that have been at play within the landscape in the past, a consideration of the reasons for these climatic changes and what may happen to the area in the future.

World Cities: Urban Change in Plymouth

Students will use deprivation indices to identify causes of urban decline. Students will use fieldwork observations to investigate case studies of regeneration schemes and consider the roles of partners and decision-makers.

World Cities: Retail and Services in Exeter

Investigating the changes in retail and services in Exeter City Centre and the impact of the redevelopment of this location. Students will use goad maps, pedestrian counts and environmental evaluations. Students will use primary and secondary data.