

YEAR 9 OPTIONS PROCESS 2025

MRS KNIGHT, DEPUTY HEAD





HOW DO YOU DECIDE???

- **ENJOYMENT**
- **SUCCESS**
- **BREADTH**
- **FUTURE – COLLEGE, JOBS,
UNIVERSITY, APPRENTICESHIPS**

WORK SO FAR WITH THE YEAR GROUP

- ASSEMBLIES IN YEAR 8 AND 9
- EBACC INFORMATION
- DRY RUN AUTUMN 2024
- INTRODUCTIONS BY TEACHERS IN LESSONS
- LIFE LESSONS

THE ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE

- NOT A QUALIFICATION IN ITS OWN RIGHT, THE EBACC IS A SPECIFIC COMBINATION OF SUBJECTS WHICH IS CONSIDERED TO BE VALUED BY EMPLOYERS AND UNIVERSITIES
- ALONGSIDE THE CORE SUBJECTS, STUDENTS NEED TO TAKE EITHER HISTORY OR GEOGRAPHY AND A MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE TO ACHIEVE THE EBACC – AT PRIORY THIS WOULD BE FRENCH OR SPANISH, ALTHOUGH STUDENTS WHO SPEAK ANOTHER LANGUAGE CAN OPT TO TAKE THIS AS AN ADDITIONAL GCSE IN YEAR 10 OR 11 AND THIS WOULD QUALIFY (DEPENDENT ON THE LANGUAGE)

THE ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE

- AT THE PRIORY SCHOOL, OUR RESULTS FOR MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES ARE CONSISTENTLY HIGH
- WHILST MANY STUDENTS DO FIND STUDYING A LANGUAGE HARDER THAN SOME OTHER SUBJECTS, THE VALUE OF HAVING A GCSE IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE IS SIGNIFICANT AND WILL HAVE BENEFITS REGARDLESS OF THEIR CHOSEN PATH
- THE LANGUAGES GCSE SPECIFICATION HAS CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY TO MAKE IT MORE ACCESSIBLE

• **CORE SUBJECTS**

- **ENGLISH LANGUAGE / ENGLISH LITERATURE (5 HRS 2 GCSES)**
- **MATHS (4 HRS 1 GCSE)**
- **SCIENCE (5 HRS 2 GCSES) [COMBINED SCIENCE]**
- **PE**
- **LIFE**
- **RP (ONLY FOR STUDENTS NOT TAKING AS AN OPTION)**

NUMBER OF OPTIONS

- MOST STUDENTS WILL FOLLOW 4 EXTRA GCSEs ALONGSIDE THEIR CORE SUBJECTS.
- 2 HOURS PER WEEK FOR EACH OPTION SUBJECT.
- THOSE WHO FOLLOW THE **PERSONALISED LEARNING** ROUTE WILL STUDY 2 OTHER CHOICES ALONGSIDE PERSONALISED LEARNING.
- THE GCSEs THEY CHOOSE CAN COME FROM **ANY OF THE 6 THEY PUT ON THEIR FORM** – THEY MUST BE WILLING TO FOLLOW A COMBINATION OF THESE. **IT IS NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE TO SECURE THEIR TOP FOUR.**

CHOICES – PATHWAY 1

- ▶ YOU MAKE **SIX** CHOICES BUT WILL TAKE **FOUR** OPTION SUBJECTS
- ▶ **YOUR FIRST CHOICE MUST BE ONE FROM EITHER HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, FRENCH OR SPANISH.** THE FORM WILL ASK YOU TO CHOOSE ONE OF THESE FIRST
- **WE STRONGLY ADVISE YOU TO CONSIDER TAKING A LANGUAGE AND EITHER HISTORY OR GEOGRAPHY IN YOUR TOP 4 CHOICES IN ORDER TO FULFIL THE EBACC REQUIREMENT**
- **IN FACT YOUR FIRST 4 COULD ALL BE EBACC IF YOU WANT THEM TO BE.**

CHOICES – PATHWAY 2

- ▶ **PERSONALISED LEARNING** – IF MRS WHITE SPEAKS TO YOU, YOU HAVE A LETTER HOME AND THIS IS REINFORCED IN YOUR 1:1 WITH MRS WHITE, WE DO EXPECT YOU TO TAKE IT.
- ▶ **IT TAKES TWO OF YOUR OPTIONS** – 4 HOURS PER WEEK. YOU COVER ONE GCSE – CITIZENSHIP - AND HAVE SMALL GROUP WORK ON ENGLISH AND MATHS.
- ▶ **YOU ONLY NEED TO CHOOSE TWO OTHER OPTIONS (PLUS YOUR 2 RESERVE CHOICES) AND YOU DO NOT HAVE TO DO HISTORY OR GEOGRAPHY.**
- ▶ YOUR ONLINE FORM WILL ONLY ALLOW YOU TO TAKE CITIZENSHIP AND TWO OTHER OPTIONS.

- **YOU ARE NOT GUARANTEED YOUR FIRST 4; YOU MUST BE PREPARED TO TAKE ANY COMBINATION OF YOUR FIRST 4 AND RESERVE CHOICES**

OTHER OPTIONS

- ART AND DESIGN
- BUSINESS
- CHILD DEVELOPMENT (BTEC)
- COMPUTER SCIENCE
- DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY
- DRAMA
- FOOD AND NUTRITION

- FRENCH
- GEOGRAPHY
- GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION
- HISTORY
- MUSIC
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION – **GCSE OR BTEC**
- RELIGIOUS PHILOSOPHY
- SPANISH
- TRIPLE SCIENCE

COMBINATIONS

- ▶ THE EXAM BOARDS WILL NOT LET YOU TAKE ART AND GRAPHICS AS THEY HAVE THE SAME EXAM CODE – **YOU MUST CHOOSE ONE OR THE OTHER.** IF YOU SELECT ONE IN YOUR TOP 4 CHOICES, YOU CAN SELECT THE OTHER AS A RESERVE CHOICE ONLY.

POINTS TO NOTE

- STUDENTS SHOULD ONLY STUDY TWO LANGUAGES IF THEY ARE CURRENTLY ALREADY STUDYING BOTH
- STUDENTS SHOULD ONLY CHOOSE **SPANISH** IF THEY HAVE STUDIED IT IN **YEAR 9**
- **ART AND GRAPHICS** CANNOT BE TAKEN TOGETHER
- **COMPUTING** REQUIRES A SOUND UNDERSTANDING OF MATHS
- TRIPLE SCIENCE REQUIRES A SOUND UNDERSTANDING OF MATHS AND IDEALLY, EXPECTED GRADES OF AT LEAST 6 IN BOTH MATHS AND SCIENCE

POINTS TO NOTE

- **DT AND FOOD** CAN BE HEAVY WITH PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT
- **MUSIC** – MUST EITHER BE ABLE TO SING OR PLAY AN INSTRUMENT TO A GOOD STANDARD
- **PE** – PROFICIENT IN AT LEAST TWO SPORTS FOR THE PRACTICAL ELEMENT
- **TRIPLE SCIENCE** – PLEASE FOLLOW GUIDANCE FROM THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

SCIENCE

- **TRILOGY** IS THE EXAM BOARD NAME FOR WHAT USED TO BE **COMBINED** SCIENCE. STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE 2 GCSE GRADES FOR THIS AND CAN FOLLOW A-LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS AND ACCESS SCIENCE AND MEDICAL COURSES AT UNIVERSITY
- **TRIPLE SCIENCE** HAS BEEN PLACED IN THE OPTIONS BLOCK FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO STUDY THE THREE SCIENCES IN GREATER DEPTH
- STUDENTS WHO FOLLOW THIS WILL HAVE **7 HOURS OF SCIENCE PER WEEK**
- **THEY SHOULD BE COMMITTED TO A SCIENCE ROUTE AND HAVE EXPECTED GRADES OF 6 OR ABOVE IN MATHS AND SCIENCE**

COURSES RUNNING

- TO BE ABLE TO STAFF A COURSE WE NEED A MINIMUM OF 10 STUDENTS. I WILL SEE STUDENTS INDIVIDUALLY IF WE CANNOT RUN A COURSE
- SOME SUBJECTS HAVE NUMBER LIMITATIONS ESPECIALLY DT AND FOOD FOR H&S REASONS. A DECISION WILL BE BASED ON BALANCE OF SUBJECTS ACROSS YOUR CHOICES, ABILITY AND HOW YOU HAVE RANKED YOUR CHOICES
- SOME SUBJECTS ARE LIMITED TO ONE CLASS DUE TO THE STAFF WE HAVE AVAILABLE TO DELIVER THEM

ONLINE SUBMISSION – TIMETABLER OPTIONS

At home, the Student/Parent enters this URL on their computer or phone or iPad to see a Log-in Screen. They enter their UserName and Password/PIN to see screens like these 2 examples:

Laura Norder High School Year 8 Language Choice

Choices for: David Dixon 7L

Extra information: Click [here](#) for an example. Click [here](#) for course information.

Step 1 of 2

[Start](#) > Choice 1 > Confirmation

Choose ONE of the following Languages:

German (De) Spanish (Sp)

This is the language you will study in Year 8, in addition to French.

[Next](#)

Choices for: Melanie Owen 9C

Extra information: Click [here](#) for an example. Click [here](#) for course information.

Step 1

[Start](#) > Free form entry (with reserve) > Confirmation

Please enter your 5 choices (1,2,3,etc) in the box for that subject:

To mark your Reserve Choice, put 'R' by that Subject

Subject	Choice
Art (Art)	2
German (De)	
Drama (Dr)	4
French (Fr)	1
Food Technology (Fo)	5
Geography (Gg)	3
Graphics (Gra)	
History (Hi)	R
Info Technology (IT)	

Submit

Reset

The Student/Parent (or the school Guidance Counsellor) enters their Choices and clicks on the 'Submit' button. The system stores the result, and sends them an email confirming the Choices they have requested.

FINAL DECISION

- YOU MUST BE SURE OF YOUR CHOICES.
- ONCE THE OPTION CHOICES ARE IN WE BEGIN TO WRITE THE TIMETABLE FOR NEXT YEAR. **DO NOT COME BACK TO ASK FOR ANY CHANGES, EVEN WITH CONSENT FROM PARENTS.**
- ONCE YOU START YOUR LESSONS IN SEPTEMBER THERE IS NO CHANGE.
- MOST STUDENTS WILL STUDY 9 GCSES, THOSE ON PATHWAY 2 WILL STUDY 8

INFORMING STUDENTS OF CHOICES

- THIS WILL BE COMMUNICATED TOWARDS THE END OF THE SPRING TERM – UNLESS A STUDENT HAS NOT BEEN SEEN BY ME TO SAY THEY HAVE NOT ACHIEVED THEIR TOP FOUR CHOICES, THEY WILL ASSUME THEIR TOP FOUR HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED
- ONCE THIS ALLOCATION HAS HAPPENED NO CHANGES CAN BE MADE.

GUIDED CHOICES

- BETWEEN 21ST JANUARY AND 7TH FEBRUARY ALL STUDENTS WILL HAVE A 1:1 SESSION WITH A MEMBER OF SLT
- STUDENTS SHOULD USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS IDEAS AND ASK QUESTIONS
- WE WILL ADVISE AND GUIDE YOU AS TO WHETHER THESE ARE A GOOD COMBINATION FOR YOU – YOU MUST LISTEN TO AND TAKE THIS ON BOARD
- IF WE HAVE SAID A CERTAIN COMBINATION OR SUBJECT WOULD NOT BE THE BEST CHOICE WE EXPECT YOU TO FOLLOW THE GUIDANCE
- ALSO, MAKE SURE YOU TALK TO YOUR TEACHERS ABOUT THE SUBJECTS YOU ARE INTERESTED IN – NOT JUST TONIGHT!

**DEADLINE FOR
SUBMISSIONS:**

24TH FEBRUARY

FINAL NOTE

- ✓ ENJOYMENT
- ✓ SUCCESS
- ✓ BREADTH
- ✓ FUTURE

Why study a language?

- Not everyone speaks English!
- Languages are like keys to open doors
- Holidays
- Higher Education
- Career opportunities
- Mental agility



Why French?

- Choose the language you are most comfortable with
- France is close to home yet so different!
- Variety
- Beauty



Learning vocabulary

- The difficult bit
- Independence
- Self-motivation
- At least 30 minutes a week
- Active learning
- Retaining vocabulary long term



What will I learn about?

- Lots of re-visiting of previous topics covered (eg food)
- New topics- up to date GCSE

family	friends	relationships	equality
physical well-being	mental well-being	food and drink	sports
places in town	shopping	transport	the natural world
environmental issues	social media and gaming	future opportunities (e.g. work, travel)	school
music	TV and film	accommodation	tourist attractions

Speaking exam- 25%

7-12 minutes long with class teacher

- Read Aloud (1-2 min)
- Role play (1-2 min)
- Describing a photo (2 min)
- Conversation (3-5 min)



Final GCSE 2027

- Speaking exam- 25%
- Listening exam 25%
- Reading exam 25%
- Writing exam- 25%



Choosing history at 14: a student's guide

Should I take



**GCSE
History?**

Choosing history at 14: a student's guide

There are four things I need to think about first...

- 1** Will I enjoy it?
- 2** Will it give me access to A-levels?
- 3** Will it help me get a job?
- 4** Will it help me to become a better person?

Choosing history at 14: a student's guide

With a History GCSE you will be able to:

- Use information to help you solve a problem or issue at home or at work.
- Weigh up the evidence carefully before making decisions. You don't take everything at face-value – you listen to both sides of the story.
- Make good decisions based on the evidence.
- Understand how and why humans behave as they do by looking at how they behaved in the past – a must have skill if your job involves working with other people!
- Learn how to express yourself clearly and make yourself heard. This is a good skill to have for job interviews and in any career!

Choosing history at 14: a student's guide

History is not all about museums and teaching you know!....

- What can I do with a history qualification?

Had you thought about....

Accountancy

Tourism

Law

Politics

Town Planning

Medicine

Journalism

Choosing history at 14: a student's guide

History is taught in many ways...

Debate

Groupwork

Role-play

Designing

Investigation

Questioning

Written work

Presentations

What will I study?

AQA

Paper 1

- Germany, 1890-1945: Democracy & Dictatorship
- Conflict & Tension in Asia, 1950-1975

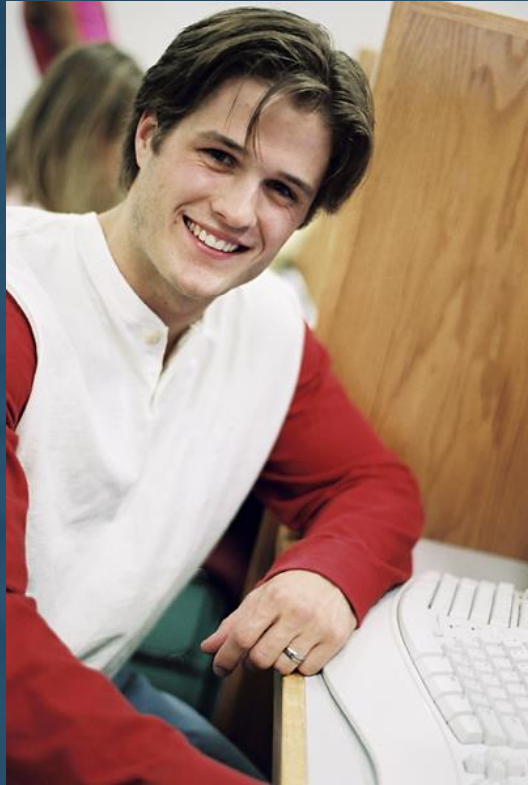
Paper 2

- Norman England, c.1066-c.1100
- Britain: Health & the People, c.1000-present day

(No Controlled Assessment.)

Choosing history at 14: a student's guide

Are you



prepared to
become an
investigator and
research topics
for yourself?

Choosing history at 14: a student's guide

Does it



excite you to think that you could solve problems that have puzzled people in the past?

Choosing history at 14: a student's guide

Do you



like to form your own opinions, even if they might be different from those of your friends - or teachers?

Choosing history at 14: a student's guide

Are you



prepared to stand your ground and argue your case if you have enough evidence to back up your argument?

Choosing history at 14: a student's guide



Berlin

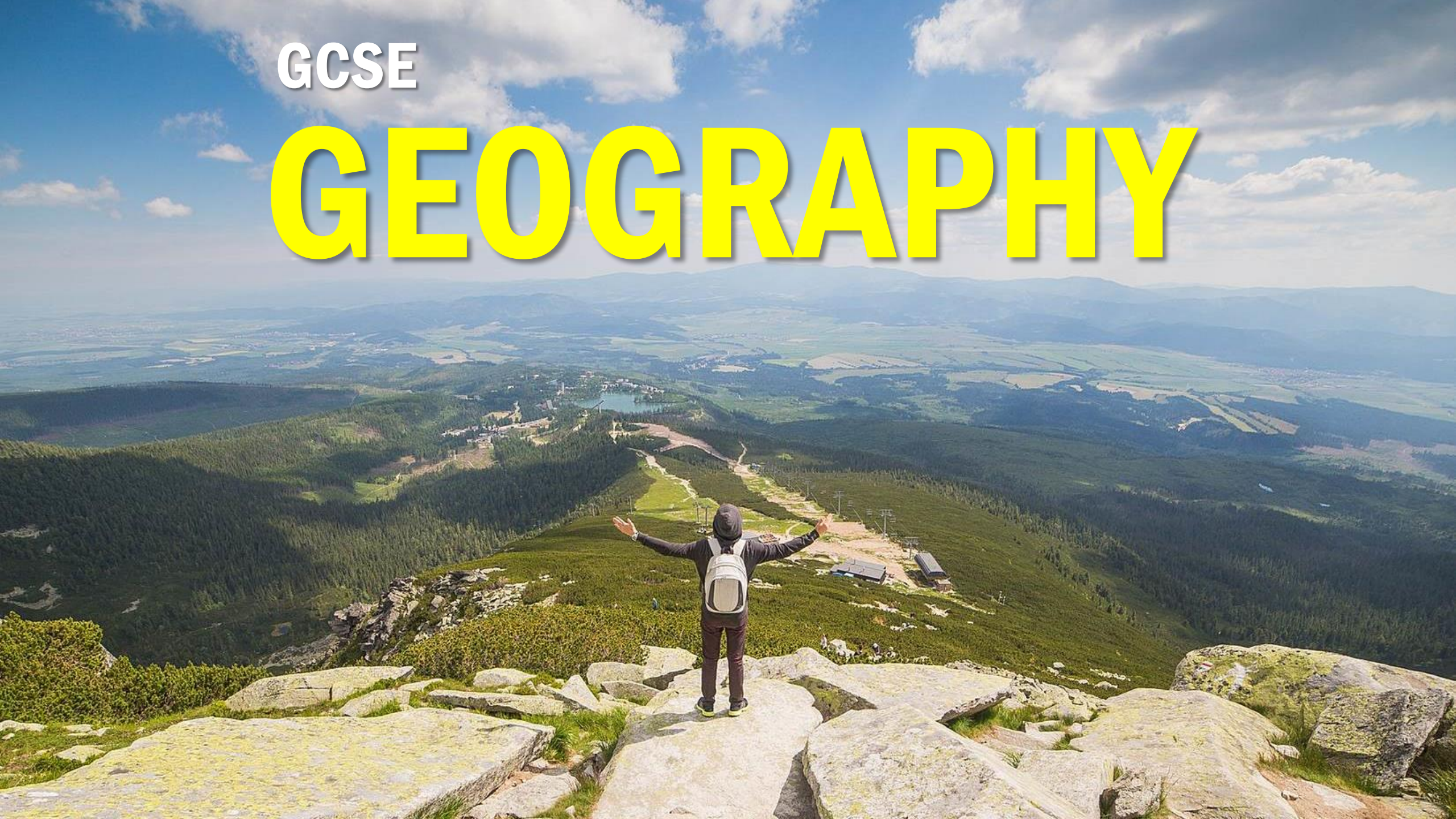


Choosing history at 14: a student's guide

Hard but rewarding work.
Interesting!
Study of real people in a living past!
Topical!
Of real value in employment!
Relevant!
Y makes us ask why, why, why!

GCSE

GEOGRAPHY

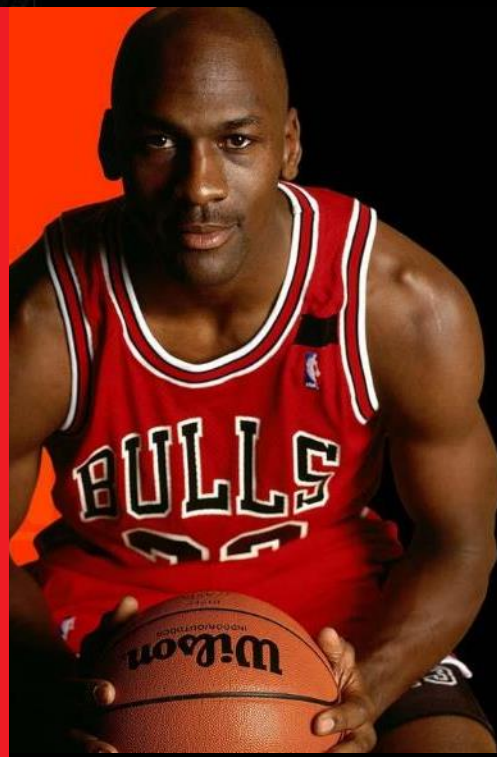




**I ALONE CANNOT CHANGE THE
WORLD, BUT I CAN CAST A STONE
ACROSS THE WATERS TO CREATE
MANY RIPPLES.**



Who are these people and what do they all have in common?



Great job

PROSPECTS

Unemployment rate (2018-2019):

IT 9.4%, Physics 7.6%, Maths 7.5%

Biology 6.0%, DT 6.8%, Chemistry 6.3%, Arts 6.6%,

Business Studies 6.1%, History 5.7%, English 5.4%,

History 5.7%, Average unemployment 5.1%,

Geography 4.8%

(six months after graduation)



modern computer based mapping

debating and
arguing your
point

interpreting photos,
cartoons, diagrams...

fieldwork

map skills

digital technologies

convincing
others you
are right

critical analysis

decision making

working
with data

statistics

investigating
issues in the
real world

empathy

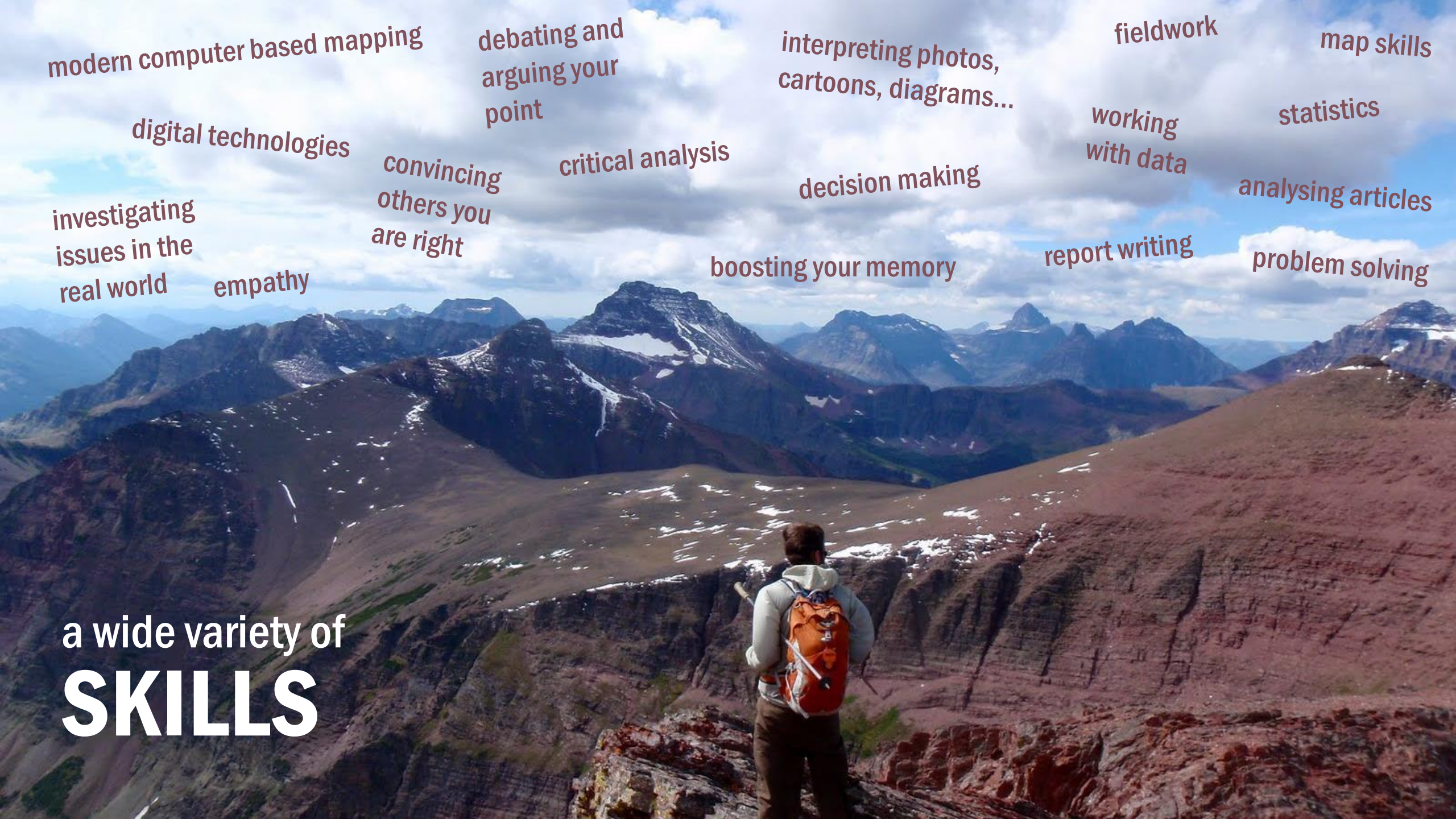
boosting your memory

report writing

analysing articles

problem solving

a wide variety of
SKILLS



Skills developed
through high quality
FIELDWORK



Pupils who have studied Geography have gone on to work in the following sectors: law, science, sales, business, environment, information technology, management, finance, banking, marketing, research, manufacturing, teaching, childcare, engineering and building, arts, design and media, town planning, working abroad and many (many) more...

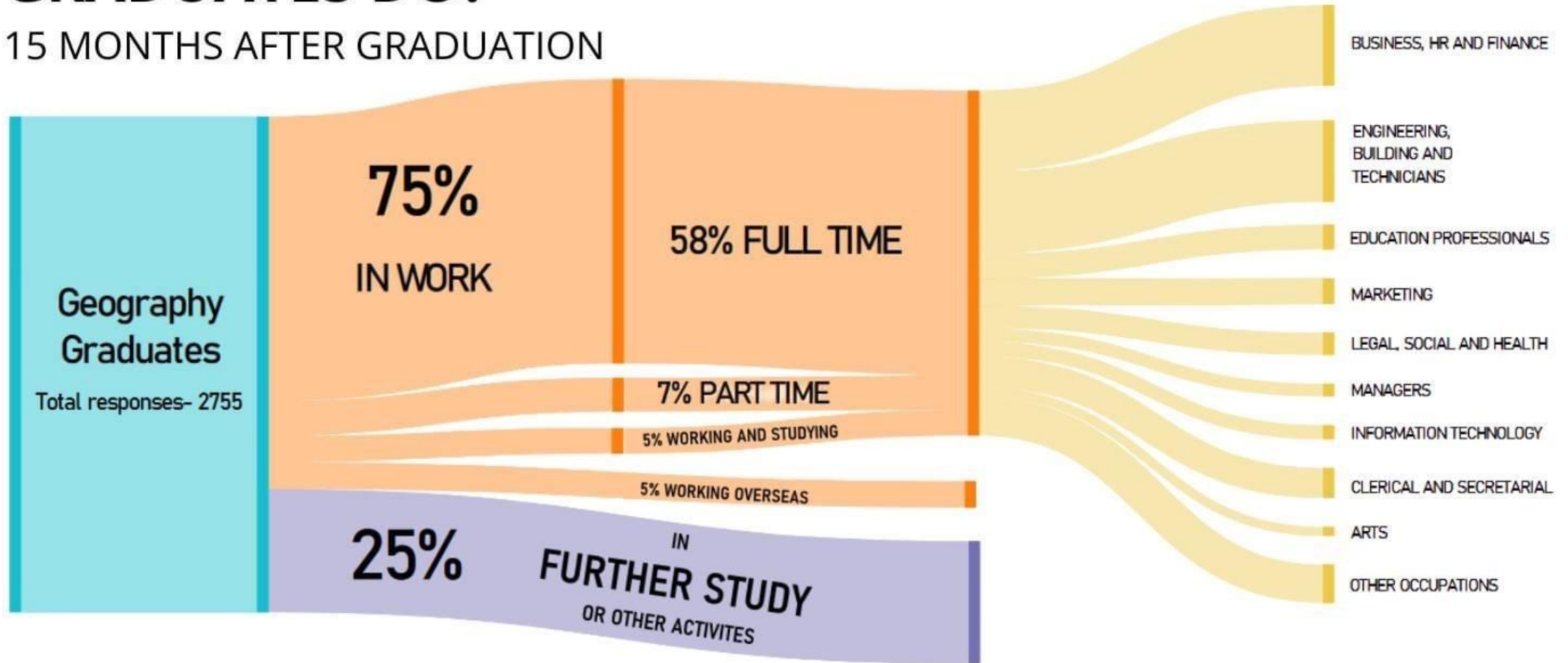
Jobs

Help Wanted

Admin Manager (P.T.)
Intelligence and Family Office
supervision and ability
ment management, involves
on office

WHAT DO *GEOGRAPHY* GRADUATES DO?

15 MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION



BASED ON DATA FROM 'WHAT DO GRADUATES DO?' 2023/24 REPORT, PROSPECTS LUMINATE. COMBINED DATA FOR GEOGRAPHY (SOCIAL SCIENCE) AND PHYSICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCIENCES OF THOSE WHO COMPLETED THEIR STUDIES IN 2020/21



Environmental Science



Mining



Development



Agriculture

Civil Service



Property



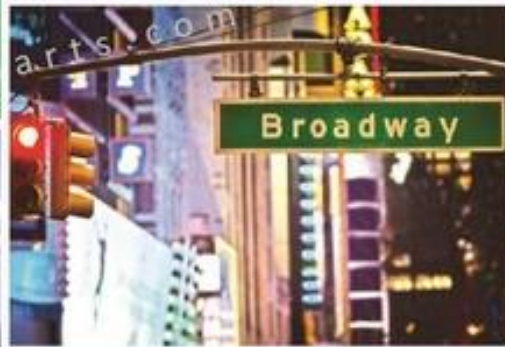
Geography
Careers

Travel



Education

Conservation



Mining

Meteorology



Leisure





The Priory School
Shrewsbury
Selfless • Self-assured • Successful

Q | [Class Charts](#) | [Folder](#) | [Menu](#)


So what will we study?



The Challenge of **NATURAL HAZARDS**

Are earthquakes
the deadliest
natural hazard?

What if the UK
was hit by a
tsunami?

An aerial photograph of a wide, winding river flowing through a dense, vibrant green forest. The river meanders across the landscape, creating several large, rounded islands and peninsulas. The sky is a pale, clear blue. In the top right corner, there is a black thought bubble containing white text. In the bottom right corner, there is another black thought bubble containing white text. In the bottom left corner, there is white text overlaid on the image.

Why can rivers
be deadly?

Physical Landscapes
RIVERS

Why do people
live near rivers
that flood?

Physical Landscapes

COASTS


Why are millions of properties at risk of falling into the sea?

How should we protect our coastlines?

Year 10

FIELDWORK



A lush, dense tropical rainforest scene. Sunlight filters through the thick canopy of green leaves, creating a dappled light effect. Several tall, slender tree trunks are visible, some with vines or epiphytes. The overall atmosphere is misty and vibrant.

What if all the
world's rainforests
were cut down?

How do plants and
animals survive
here?

The Living
WORLD



Are cities in
crisis?

What if there was
no countryside?

Urban Issues and
CHALLENGES

Year 10

FIELDWORK



The Changing **ECONOMIC WORLD**

iPhone manufacturer Foxconn plans to replace almost every human worker with robots

China's iPhone factories are being automated

by Nick Statt | @nickstatt | Dec 30, 2016, 5:07pm EST



**What jobs will
there be in the
future?**

**How will new
technology affect
business and trade?**

The Challenge of **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

Are we running
out of resources?

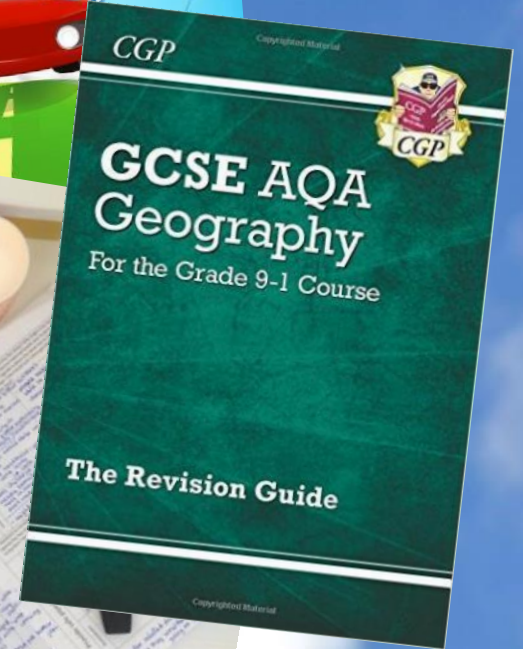
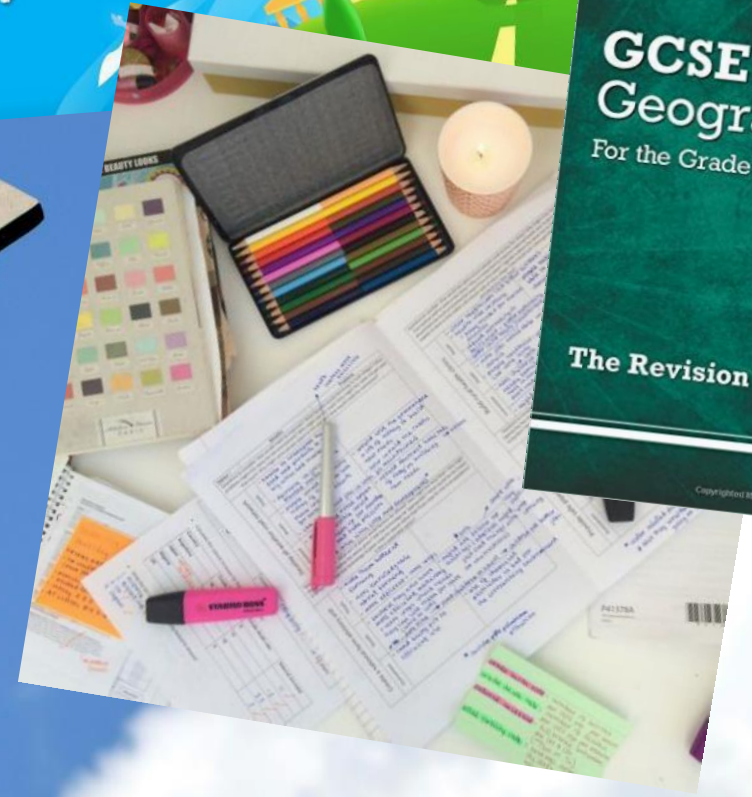
What if all power
was renewable?



Three **examinations** at the end of Year 11:

- Unit 1 (1hr 30mins) - Physical Geography (3 topics)
- Unit 2 (1hr 30mins) - Human Geography (3 topics)
- Unit 3 (1hr 30mins) - Fieldwork focus and contains an Issue Evaluation (Decision Making Exercise)





What coursework is there?

Like many subjects, there is no longer any coursework.



What subject(s) does Geography go well with?

All of them! Geography goes well with the Sciences and Mathematics as well as the Humanities, Languages and Arts. It is very flexible in terms of what it can be combined with both at GCSE and A Level.

Geography keeps your options open.



Sciences, Maths

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Humanities & Arts



Does Geography go well with Triple Science or Further Maths?

These are **perfect combinations**.

Triple Science and Geography content:
(plate tectonics, climate, sea level rise, plants and animals in the rainforest, deforestation, energy, water, and more!)

Maths is an important part of Geography.



Am I good enough to do Geography?

Yes, if you...

- are interested in the subject and the world around you (**really important!**)
- are a good 'all-rounder' and/or be committed to work on areas you may find trickier
- have good enquiry skills (i.e. are you nosy?!)
- don't mind doing some writing, and working with numbers occasionally!



How am I going to decide what subject to pick?!

How do I choose?

Go with subjects that you are **good at** and **enjoy**. If you're still stuck, are there any that you can do as an extra-curricular option?



A photograph of a sunset or sunrise. The sky is a warm, golden-orange color. A large, dark silhouette of a tree is in the foreground on the left. The text "BUT IT'S NOT ALL IN THE CLASSROOM" is overlaid in white, sans-serif capital letters, centered in the image.

BUT IT'S NOT ALL
IN
THE
CLASSROOM