

# Higher Geography: Guide for Parents and Carer



September 2018



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the Higher Geography course for Session 2018/19.

## Higher Geography Course Information

Higher Geography candidates attend classes six periods per week. Pupils study four units throughout the year:

- Human Environments
- Physical Environments
- Global Issues
- Applications of Geographical Skills

Pupils are assessed by three components:

- Question Paper 1—covering Human and Physical Environments worth 100 marks (1 hour 50 mins)
- Question Paper 2—Global Issues and Geographical Skills worth 60 marks (1 hour 10 minutes)
- The Assignment—a 30 mark write up of a report which pupils write in class under exam conditions which is sent to SQA to be marked

The Geography SQA Exams will take place on:

Tuesday 28th May 2019

## Assessment

Unit Assessments have been removed which means that candidates will be assessed by teachers in a number of ways including:

- Timed exam style questions
- End of topic tests
- Knowledge tests
- Homework tasks

Pupils will always have advanced knowledge of these. The timed exam style questions and end of topic tests in particular will determine a candidate's ability to cope with the demands of the final exam. Specific pupil assessment dates will be given by class teachers however should roughly follow the schedule below:

Aug	Population	Jan	Prelim
Sep	Hydro-sphere	Feb	Assignment
Oct	Lithosphere	Mar	Rural and Biosphere
Nov	Urban	Apr	River Basin Management
Dec	Atmosphere and Climate Change	Apr	Timed exam questions Exam Prep

## Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying Higher Geography will always have tasks they should be working on at home. The majority of homework will take the form of answering exam style questions or writing reports. These will be issued by class teachers and details posted on Show My Homework. It is very important that all deadlines issued by class teachers are adhered to.

Supported Study is offered by the department as part of the whole school programme. Details of Supported Study sessions will be issued to parents by the school. In addition to this, Mrs Fulton further supported study sessions at lunchtime. Additional support for any pupil who requires it can be arranged with Mrs Fulton.

As well as set pieces of Homework which require a submission to teachers, pupils must carry out regular revision at home. The pace of the Higher Geography course leaves little time for consolidation in class therefore there is an expectation that every pupil is spending at least one hour per week revising. This could take many forms including:

- Reading over class notes/ materials from Blogs
- Creating mind maps/ spider diagrams/ flash cards of classwork
- Completing Past Papers at home
- Working with a peer to create questions & answers on a key topic

Pupils should not be listening to music, using mobile phones or watching television while revision activities are carried out. This could impact on the effectiveness of revision activities.

Any past paper questions completed at home may be submitted to class teachers for feedback/ marking.

## The Assignment

All Higher Geography candidates must produce a report on a topic of their choice as part of the course. This is worth 30 marks and must be produced with minimal support from class teachers.

This will require a considerable amount of a candidate's own time in order to:

- Carry out required reading/ research and Identify a suitable hypothesis
- Identify suitable methods of gathering data (carry out field work)
- Produce two A4 sides of processed information using the data gathered
- Write-up and learn a discussion of findings with conclusions

Pupils will be working on this from November 2018.

## Useful Resources

- <http://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm> (all SQA Past Papers)
- <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zmhs34j> (BBC Bitesize Higher Geography—Revision Notes, Quizzes, Video Clips)
- <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/stjoachighergeography/>



@stjoacss (Social Subjects Department Twitter)

### Other out of school activities which will benefit Higher Geographers include:

- \* Watching geographical films/ documentaries
- \* Reading
- \* Visiting local library for reading/ research
- \* Watching news/ reading newspapers