

Year 8

# KS4 Options

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Presentation for Parents

English Martyrs' Catholic School



# The School Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ  
Make me a better person  
Considerate towards others  
Honest with myself  
Faithful to you  
Help me to find my true vocation in life  
And so to find happiness myself  
And bring happiness to others

Amen.



# Options Process

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Date	Time	Event
Thursday 8 February	5:00pm	Year 8 Options Presentation to Parents
Friday 9 February	8:25am	Year 8 Options Assembly and Information Fair
Over the Next Four Weeks		Options Information in Lessons
Thursday 7 March	3:30pm	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Friday 8 March to Tuesday 12 March		Online Options Form Open to Submit Preferences

# How many subjects will your child take?



<b>Compulsory Subjects</b> <i>Students study all of these</i>			<b>Options Subjects</b> <i>Students study two</i>	
English Language	Biology	French	History	French
	Chemistry	<b>OR</b>	Geography	Art
English Literature	Physics	<b>OR</b>	GCSE PE	Drama
	<b>OR</b>	<b>OR</b>	Design Tech	Music
Religious Education	Combined Science (2 GCSEs)	History	Computing	Food
Maths			BTEC IT	Textiles
			BTEC Dance	

# Options

- Students must choose one subject from History, Geography and French
- We strongly recommend students considering proceeding to Sixth Form / University to select French AND either History or Geography





# Assessment in Option Subjects

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In Geography, History and French, the final grade is determined only by exam performance.

In Art, Drama, Food Preparation & Nutrition, Music and Textiles, practical elements contribute to the final grade.

In BTEC subjects, practical assignments make up most of the grade, as well as an exam.



# BTEC Courses

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In ICT and Dance, a student's grade is mainly determined by coursework.

BTECs are equivalent to GCSE:

Pass : Grade 4 at GCSE

Merit : Grade 6 at GCSE

Distinction: Grade 7 at GCSE

Distinction\*: Grade 8 at GCSE

# How to Choose your Options Subjects

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- Most students will study 3 option subjects
- You must choose one subject from French, Geography and History
- We strongly advise all students considering proceeding to Sixth Form / University to select French AND either History or Geography
- Current assessment level
- Method of assessment
- Enjoyment / future career plans

## **Students should NOT take into account:**

- Which teacher is teaching them this year
- What option subjects their friends select



# Options Grid


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Page 6 of your Options  
booklet

OPTION A	OPTION B	OPTION C
French GCSE	French GCSE	French GCSE
Geography GCSE	Geography GCSE	Geography GCSE
History GCSE	History GCSE	History GCSE
Textiles GCSE	Design & Technology GCSE	Computer Science GCSE
Drama GCSE	Food Preparation & Nutrition GCSE	I.C.T. BTEC Tech Award Level 1 & 2
PE GCSE	Art GCSE	Music GCSE
I.C.T. BTEC Tech Award Level 1 & 2	Dance BTEC Tech Award Level 1 & 2	

# The Online Options Form


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3. Do you hope to go to Sixth Form after completing your GCSEs? \* 

☐ Yes

☐ No


☐ Not certain

4. Do you hope to go to university when you leave school? \* 

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not certain

5. Do you have any particular ambitions regarding your future career? \* 



Microsoft Forms


# The Online Options Form

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## Option Block Choices

Please place the subjects in each option block in order of preference - the top subject being your most preferred and the bottom subject being your least preferred. You must place at least one of French/Geography/History in the top position in at least one of the three blocks.

### 7. Option A

Please place the subjects below in order of preference - the top subject being your most preferred and the bottom subject being your least preferred. \* 

French GCSE

History GCSE

Geography GCSE

Textiles GCSE

Drama GCSE

PE GCSE



Microsoft Forms

# The Online Options Form

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- The online options form will be **emailed to parents on Friday 8 March**
- Submission deadline: **Tuesday 12 March**
- There is a limit to the number of spaces available in each class. If a subject is over-subscribed places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

# Key Dates for Parents

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Date	Time	Event
Thursday 8 February	5:00pm	Year 8 Options Presentation to Parents
Thursday 7 March	3:30pm	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Friday 8 March		Online Options Form Emailed to Parents
Tuesday 12 March	4:00pm	Online Options Form Closes





# GCSE FRENCH

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# KEY FEATURES OF THE COURSE

French is an interactive and topical course which enhances students' career choices by giving them an awareness of French culture and lifestyle, while also developing their ability to understand and communicate in French through the balanced study of four skills:

listening      speaking      reading      writing

Students' skills in the language are developed in a variety of ways including:

- « *use of authentic reading materials* from up-to-date magazines, brochures and websites.
- « *use of recorded live material* of native French speakers.
- « *More relevant, engaging and condensed context* arranged in three separate contexts.
- « *Less stressful* speaking assessments with new subject criteria.
- « *Use of online learning materials* and apps for vocabulary and learning
- « *Questions* in Listening and Reading papers in English and French.



# TOPIC AREAS

Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based:

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## Theme 1: People and Lifestyle

Topic 1; Identity and relationships with others

Topic 2; Healthy living and lifestyle

Topic 3; Education and work

## Theme 2: Popular Culture

Topic 1; Free-time activities

Topic 2; Customs, festivals and celebrations

Topic 3; Celebrity culture

## Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

Topic 1; Travel and tourism, including places of interest

Topic 2; Media and technology

Topic 3; The environment and where people live



A circular inset image on the left side of the slide shows a top-down view of a golf green. A hole is in the center with a flagstick. A golf ball is on the grass to the left of the hole. The green is a vibrant green color.

# THE COURSE OUTLINE

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- 3-year linear AQA course
- In June of Year 11 you will be examined in 4 components:
  - Paper 1: listening (25%)
  - Paper 2: Speaking (25%)
  - Paper 3: Reading (25%)
  - Paper 4: Writing (25%)
- You will be entered for either the Foundation or the Higher exam - it will be the same for all 4 exams



# STUDENTS THAT STUDY FRENCH GCSE ALSO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO PARIS

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# HOW TO SUPPORT YEAR 9 STUDENTS IN FRENCH

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A key area for homework and for independent study is development of vocabulary

All classes in Years 7–13 have weekly vocabulary tests.

All vocabulary is on these websites:

- [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com)
- [www.memrise.com](http://www.memrise.com)

Extra practice for all skills is on Activelearn which all students have access to.

Homework is set weekly and may be a learning, reading or written homework. All tasks are on satchel:one

Students are also supplied with Knowledge Organisers containing all of the Key vocabulary and structures necessary to succeed at GCSE.

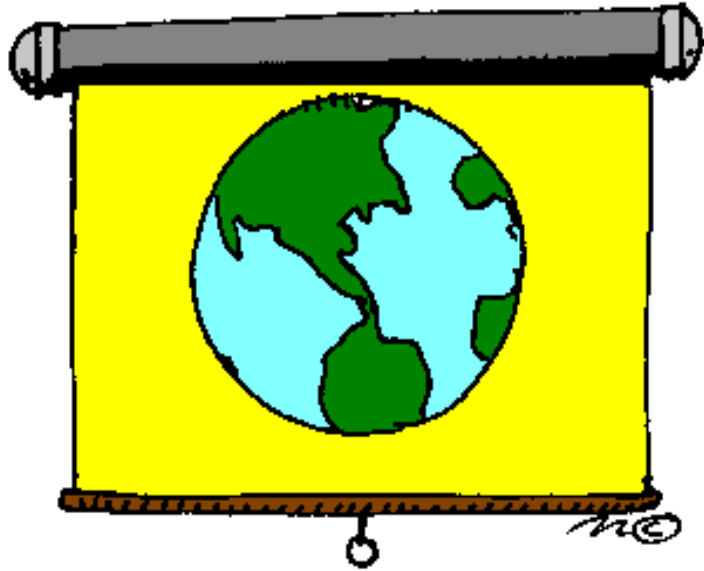


# ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

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- Key Exam Skills
- Revision methods to be used
- Exam revision guide
- Vocabulary lists

All resources available in the MFL Year 9 folders. Here students and parents/carers can find tips and methods to improve learning with a particular focus on revision techniques.



# GCSE Geography at English Martyrs: AQA Spec

**Course overview &  
assessment criteria**



# How can GCSE Geography prepare students for Further Education?

- Greater breadth of topics – there are now 12 topics + fieldwork compared to 10 topics previously
- Challenge – to cater for Level 9 (grade A\*\*) students, there are overlaps to [old] AS Level content
- Greater experience of fieldwork – students must complete at least 2 days of field visits [Focus in Yr10].
- No controlled assessment – students will now answer exam questions based on their fieldwork experiences
- No Foundation or Higher tier papers – examinations are differentiated with multiple choice, short-structured to more extended answers
- Introduction of a decision-making exercise – allow students to show how they can ‘think like a geographer’.



# Course overview

1. UNIT 1: Living with the physical environment	We will learn about: 1. Natural hazards: Tectonics, extreme weather, climate change 2. The living world: Ecosystems and the pressures on cold environments [such as Antarctica] & tropical rainforests 3. Physical landscapes of the UK: Coasts & rivers.
2. UNIT 2: Challenges in the human environment	We will learn about: 1. Urban issues and challenges 2. The changing economic world 3. The challenge of resource management incl energy
3. UNIT 3: Geographical applications	We will learn about applying our practical geography skills: 1. To make decisions through an issue evaluation 2. To discuss two experiences of fieldwork from outside the classroom



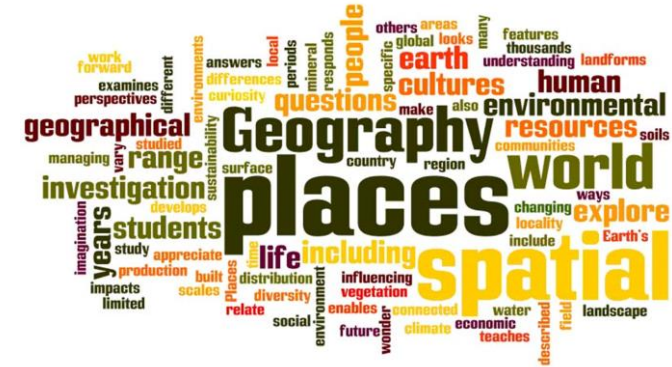
# Assessment criteria

Unit	Weighting	Explanation
Unit 1 Living with the physical environment	35%	1 hour 30 mins exam (testing your understanding of the physical geography units)
Unit 2 Challenges in the human environment	35%	1 hour 30 mins exam (testing your understanding of the human geography units)
Unit 3 Geographical applications	30%	1 hour 30 mins exam (testing your understanding of the fieldwork experiences and in making decisions using pre-released source information)

# GCSE GEOGRAPHY AT ENGLISH MARTYRS SCHOOL


- What can I do with Geography?

The Confederation of British Industry [CBI], an organisation that represents 190,000 businesses in the UK states that **Geography is *the* most employable subject**. It is an excellent qualification which can lead to employment in most types of jobs – from Accountancy to Law to Volcanology[!] ... the list is endless because Geography can open many doors to careers due to its many transferable skills.

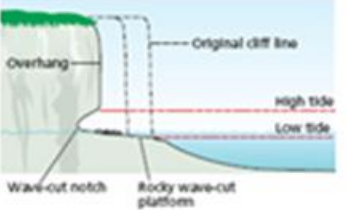

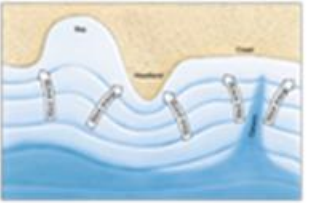


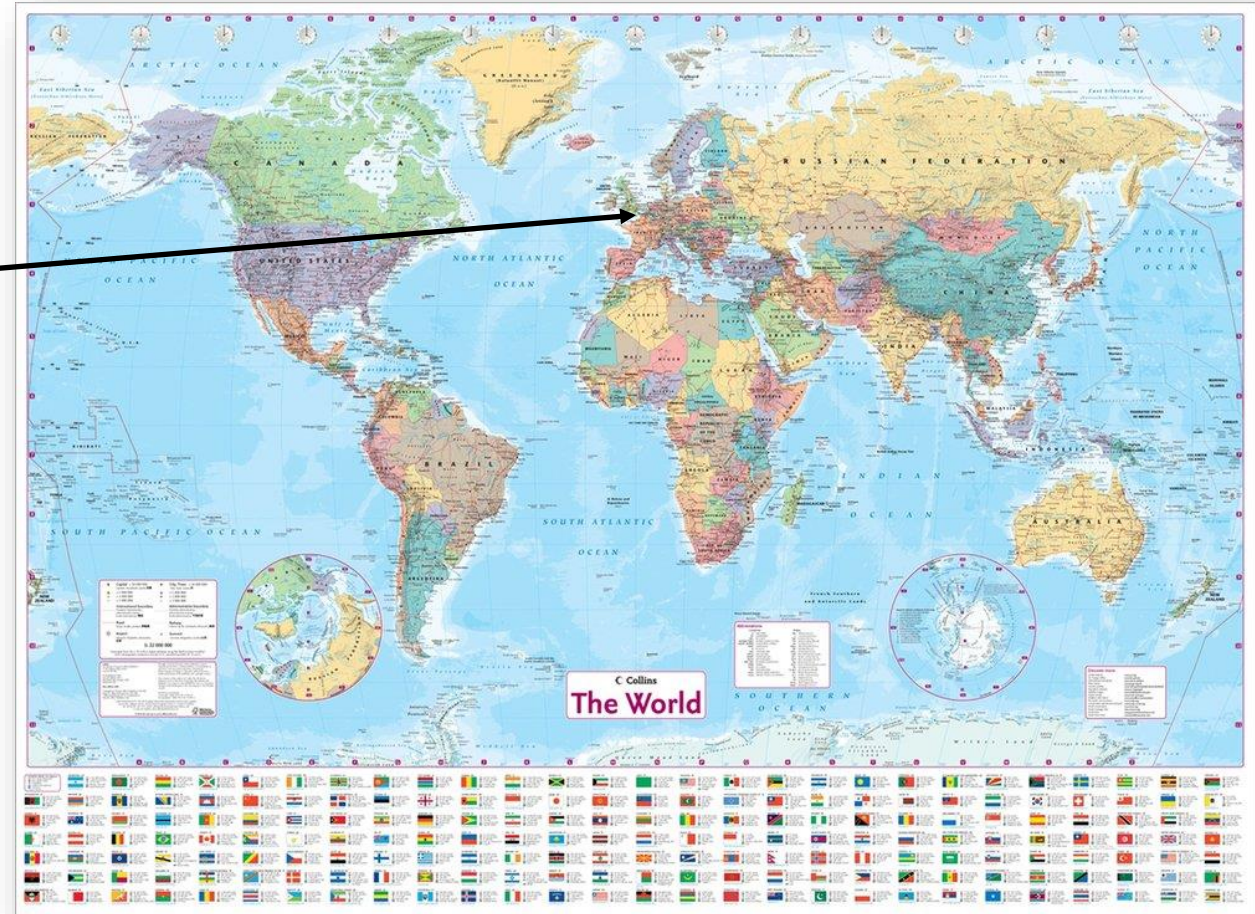


# GCSE Geography Revision Flash Cards



EMS Geography GCSE Revision FLASH CARDS:  
Unit 1 – Coastal Landscapes (AQA)

EMS Geography GCSE Revision: Question(s)	Answer(s)
<b>COASTAL LANDSCAPES</b>  Explain the formation of cliffs and wave-cut platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cliff formation – sea erodes base of cliff by hydraulic action and abrasion (destructive waves).</li> <li>- Over time this creates a wave-cut notch and overhang</li> <li>- Lack of support (gravity) of overhung cliff creates pressure / cracks and subsequent collapse</li> <li>- Action of sea compacting rock into wave-cut platform which protects coast at low tide e.g. <u>Kimmeridge, Dorset</u></li> <li>- Formation of steep cliff which over time recedes</li> </ul>
	
<b>COASTAL LANDSCAPES</b>  Explain the formation of headlands and bays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Headlands and bays are formed in areas of hard and soft rock (discordant coastline)</li> <li>- Erosion is greater on the soft rock e.g. Clay (Swanage Bay, Dorset) – as these are less resistant to wave processes such as hydraulic action and abrasion</li> <li>- Headlands are more resistant – therefore erodes more slowly – protruding into the sea e.g. Limestone (<u>Peveril Point, Swanage, Dorset</u>)</li> <li>- The exposed headland eventually becomes more vulnerable to erosion from destructive waves. This is due to:</li> </ul>
	
	<p>Wave refraction, where the crest of the wave refracts (bends) to the shape of the coastline due to friction, which concentrates high energy destructive waves on the headland and transportation of eroded material by <u>longshore drift</u> in to the bay and deposition by waves which are now low energy.</p>



# GCSE Geography Revision Guide

myrevisionnotes

AQA GCSE (9–1)

## GEOGRAPHY



Simon Ross  
Rebecca Blackshaw

 **HODDER**  
EDUCATION  
LEARN MORE

## 10 Coastal landscapes in the UK

### 10.1 Coastal processes

What are the main wave types and their characteristics?

REVISED

**Waves** are formed by the wind blowing over the sea. Friction with the water's surface causes ripples to form, which can then develop into waves. The energy of the waves is determined by:

- the strength of the wind
- the duration of the wind
- the distance of open water over which the wind blows – this is called the fetch.

In the open water, waves have a circular (orbital) motion. As the waves approach the shore, this orbital motion is interrupted by the shallowing seafloor, causing the waves to rise up and eventually break on the **beach** (Figure 10.1).

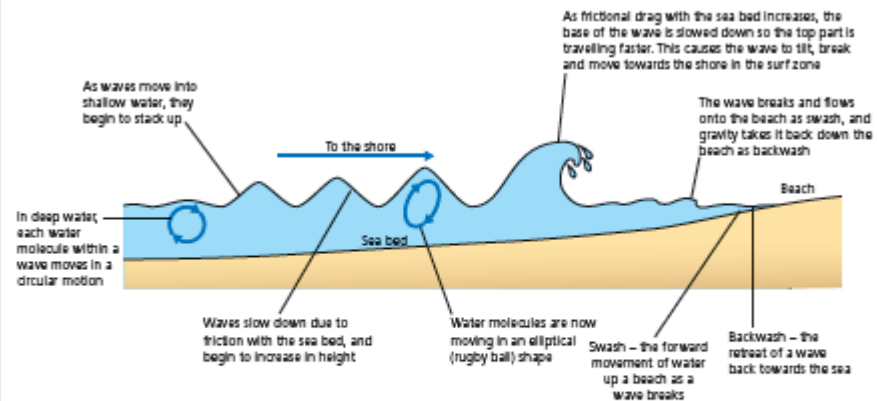


Figure 10.1 Waves approaching the coast

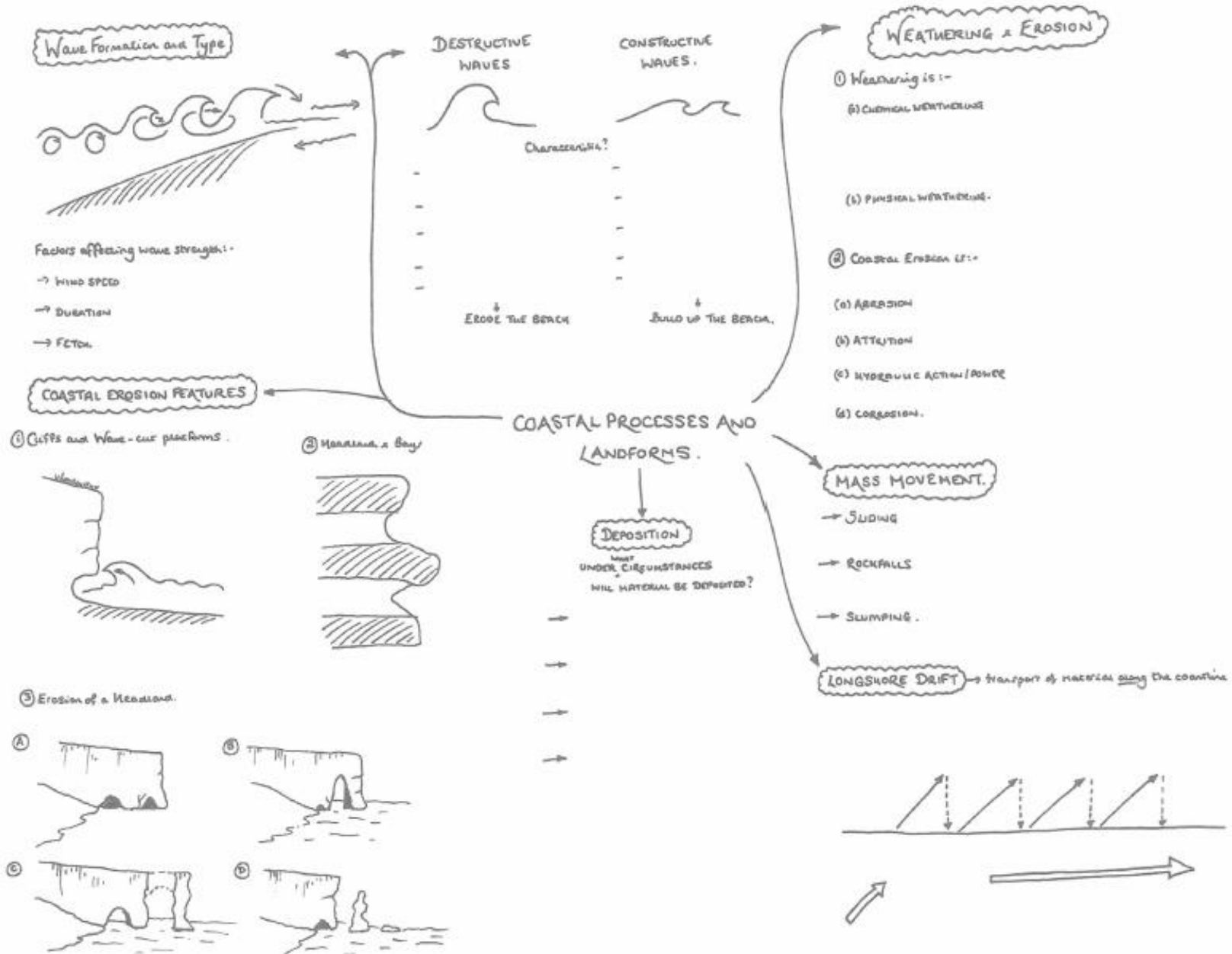
Now test yourself

TESTED

- 1 What causes waves to form?
- 2 What happens to waves as they approach the shore?

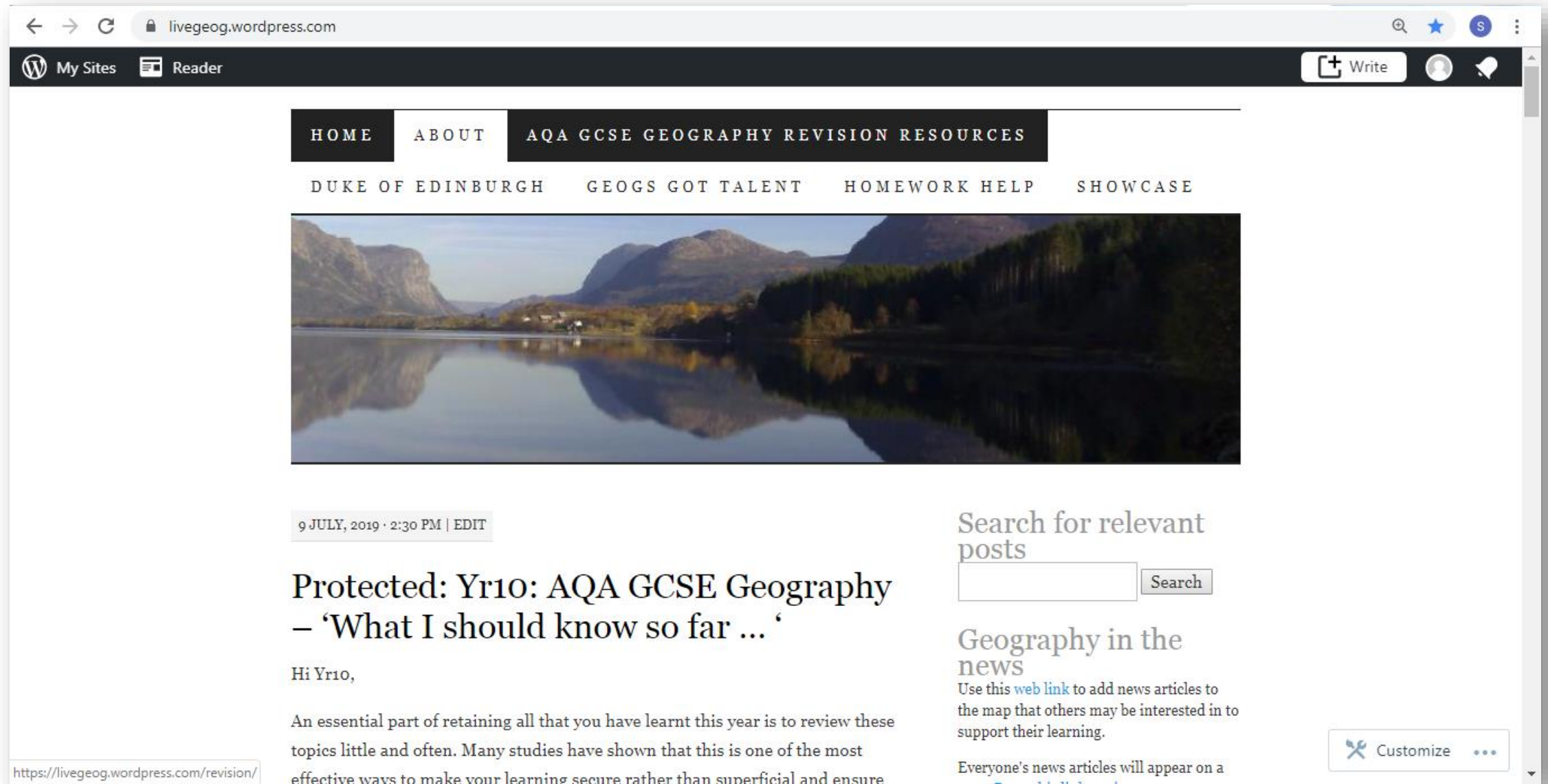


# ACTIVE REVISION





# ‘LIVEGEOG’: GEOGRAPHY REVISION RESOURCES AVAILABLE 24/7!



# AQA GCSE GEOGRAPHY:

## [YR9] DEVELOPING YOUR GEOGRAPHICAL SKILLS

Key focus in Year 9:

Cover some the GCSE themes with a focus on developing skills:

- **Fieldwork** – **Crime Enquiry** [How safe is my street?]
- **Literacy & Numeracy** – **What is Globalisation?** – ‘**Factfulness**’ and **awareness of Bias**
- Understanding **Physical Processes** and **SEEing the Impacts** - **Earthquakes & Volcanoes**
- **Thinking Synoptically** – **Can the Earth Cope?** – **linking** physical and human geography
- AQA GCSE: Complete ‘**Coastal Landscapes**’



How positive is my attitude to learning?

<b>A</b>	<b>Positive</b>	Embraces challenges, learns from mistakes and sees that my effort is the key to success.
<b>B</b>	<b>Mostly positive</b>	... <u>and</u> sees that my efforts makes a difference; I respond well to feedback and mostly respond well to challenges.
<b>C</b>	<b>Becoming more positive</b>	... and needs to be more resilient and focussed when facing new challenges
<b>D</b>	<b>Not positive yet</b>	Sometimes avoids challenges and can give up easily. I need to see that more focus and trying again will help my learning.

# GCSE History ↴



Edexcel GCSE History



**“Study history, study history! In history lie all the secrets to life and leadership.” (Winston Churchill).**

History first and foremost teaches you to think about the modern world – why is it the way it is. History is one of the most well-regarded academic subjects, as well as being one of the most enjoyable due to the range of subjects studied and the depth of learning that takes place each lesson.



# Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment (30%) Migrants in Britain, 800-present and Notting Hill c1948-c1970

- c800-c1500: The impact of the Vikings and the Norman Conquest
- c1500-c1700: How the reformation changed the nature of migration.
- c1700-c1900: How did the Industrial Revolution affect migration from India, Ireland and more.
- c1900-present: Migration in modern Britain
- Notting Hill, c1948-c1970



# Paper 2: Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91

## Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88

- Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes
- 40% of the qualification

### **Topics Covered;**

- Two different topics, taught separately but examined at the same time
- The development of the Cold War between USA & USSR and some key events within the war
- Reasons for the end of the Cold War and the collapse of USSR
- Key events within the reign of Elizabeth I such as the Spanish Armada and the Religious Settlement
- The nature of society in Elizabeth's reign - poverty, pastimes, emigration, education





# Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39

- Written examination: 1 hour and 20 minutes
- 30% of the qualification

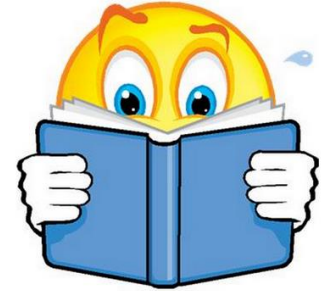
## **Topics Covered;**

- The birth and collapse of the democratic Weimar Republic 1918-33
- The growth of the Nazi Party 1918-1933
- How the Nazis removed opposition within Germany once they came to power.
- Nazi policy - how they changed the lives of Germans 1933-39



# Is it for me?

- GCSE History is stimulating and interesting and is an excellent qualification for many career paths (e.g. Law, Journalism, the Civil Service, Education, the Charity Sector, Politics, Military, the Police)
- However, you must go into your options with your eyes open - there is an expectation that History GCSE is a challenging and demanding course.
- There is a great deal of writing involved. You must also be prepared to read a great deal. History is a very literacy-based topic.
- You will also need to be able to remember and recall a large range of specific, detailed evidence to support your answers.
- A good way of determining whether the course is for you is the grade you are currently working at. You should take into account what progress you are currently making in your studies;
- If you have been **consistently** working at your expected grade and you find history interesting, then that is a sign that you will be able to cope well with the demands of GCSE History and will make good progress.
- If you have often been **behind** your expected grade, and are making better progress in other subjects, then you should consider where you might make the best progress. However, if you genuinely enjoy your history lessons and are willing to put the effort in, then please do consider it and have a conversation with your history teacher. History is a challenging course for all students, but we have worked hard to ensure that all students have the best possible support no matter how high or low their current working grades.
- If you are unsure about whether to take history or not, **please have a conversation with your current teacher** - they will be able to give you personalised advice.



# How is GCSE History assessed?

Paper 1: Migrants in Britain



Entered for exam in June year 11

Paper 2: Early Elizabeth and the Cold War



Entered for exam in June year 11

Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany



Entered for exam in June year 11

# Why pick History?

**Universities love it** (highly regarded as an academic subject, develops critical thinking, use of and analysis of a wide range of evidence, source analysis skills, coursework aspect is seen as invaluable experience, gives you skills in debate, argument, research)

**It's enjoyable!** (History is all about stories of why the world is the way it is. It's about the most interesting thing in the world... real people)

**It opens up a world of career opportunities** (journalism, law, civil service, government, armed forces, the media and of course, teaching! Etc.)



"History is a people's memory, and without memory man is demoted to the lower animals"

**Malcolm X Civil Rights Campaigner**

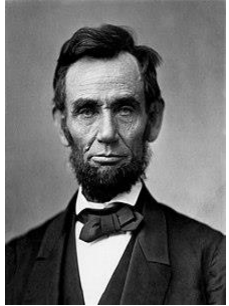


"If you want to understand today, you have to search yesterday."

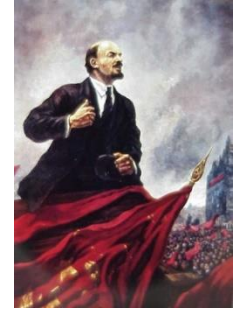
**Pearl Buck**







# So what are the benefits of studying history other than employability?

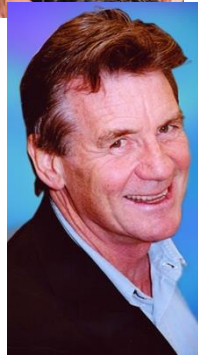


There's so much more you can get out of History than just a pathway to a career. It takes you on a journey of self-discovery by giving you a broader 'world view', offering you the opportunity to make sense of people, the world and the problems around us; whether it be the increasing concern of Russia to the world, the continuing impact of religion as a source of conflict, or the changing relationship between Britain and Europe.

History allows you the freedom to think and the chance to understand more about the society in which you live. Above all, unlike any other subject, it defines who you are in this world and empowers you with the ability to contribute to, and indeed alter, it!

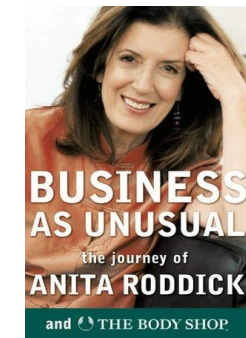
"Only a good-for-nothing is not interested in his past"  
**Sigmund Freud**

"History is who we are and why we are the way we are."  
**David Mccullough**



## *Famous Historians...*

- ❖ King Charles III - the King!
- ❖ Joe Biden, President of the USA
- ❖ Elena Kagan, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States
- ❖ Louis Theroux, Journalist and TV presenter
- ❖ Sacha Baron Cohen, Actor
- ❖ Robert Gunn, Chairman of Boots
- ❖ Lord Sainsbury, President of the supermarket chain
- ❖ Marmaduke Hussey, BBC Chairman of Governors
- ❖ John Tusa, Managing Director of BBC Worldwide
- ❖ Andrew Marr, Journalist and TV presenter
- ❖ Michael Mansfield, Barrister
- ❖ Jonathan Ross, TV presenter
- ❖ Anita Roddick, Entrepreneur and founder of The Body Shop
- ❖ Gordon Brown, former Prime Minister of Great Britain
- ❖ Michael Palin, Broadcaster
- ❖ David Tenant - Actor
- ❖ Shakira, Musician
- ❖ And many many more!





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# Thank you for coming to our options presentation.

Our options teachers are in the Exhibition Space to answer any questions you may have.



# Key Dates for Parents

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