

# Studying GCSE Geography



You'll get **great results!** We are the **highest performing humanity subject** at Balcarras.



We'll get you **outside...** you'll go on at least **two fieldtrips** as part of the course.



You'll be taught by a team of **experienced and committed geography teachers.**



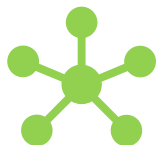
You'll use lessons from the past to help make decisions about the the **future of our planet.**



You'll learn **transferrable skills** like being able to analyse, research and problem solve.



You'll have the option to come to **Iceland** with us in October 2025!



**Green careers** are the future, and by studying geography you can be at the heart of it.



You'll be **more employable!** Geography is a **facilitating subject**, so is highly valued by universities and employers.

# What kind of topics will you study?



## **Physical Geography**

- Natural Hazards
- Physical Landscapes of the UK
- The Living World

## **Human Geography**

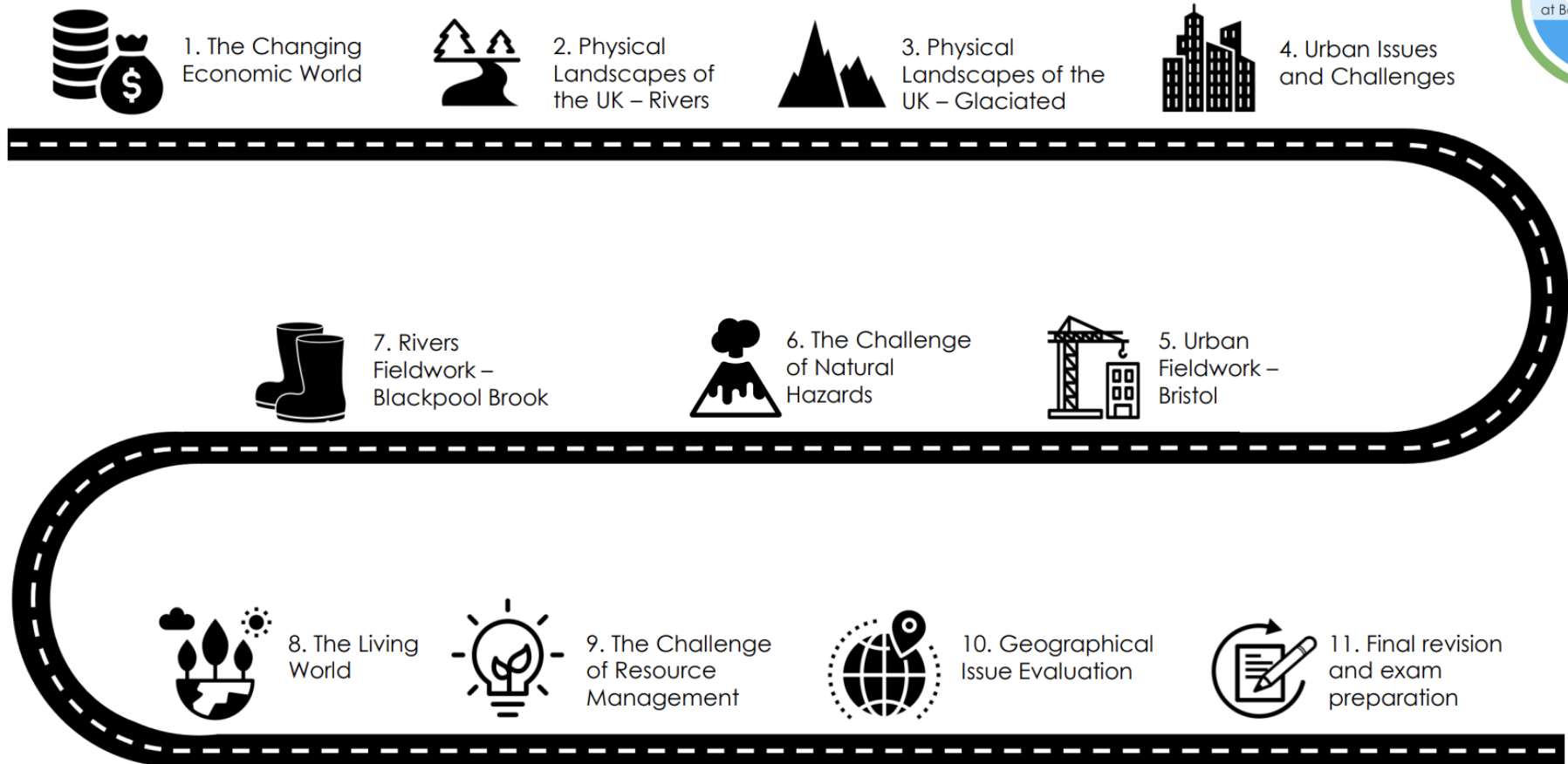
- Resource Management
- Urban Issues and Challenges
- Changing Economic World

## **Geographical Skills**

- Rivers fieldwork
- Urban fieldwork
- Map, graph, numeracy and statistical skills

# How will the course be taught?

## A Road Map of the AQA GCSE Geography Curriculum at Balcarras



This road map shows the topics studied across the two years of GCSE Geography. Each topic features a range of learning episodes; these are summarised in their own topic overviews and curriculum maps.

# How is the course structured?

## Course Structure

We study the **AQA GCSE Geography** specification. Students will study 3 human geography topics, 3 physical geography topics, along with a range of geographical skills and fieldwork. It is a linear qualification. Students will sit 3 papers at the end of Year 11:

- Paper 1: Living with the physical environment (35%)
- Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment (35%)
- Paper 3: Geographical applications (30%)

## Assessment

The exam papers for GCSE Geography incorporate a **range of question styles** including: multiple choice, geographical skills e.g. completing a graph or finding a grid reference, short answer and longer answer (the longest are worth 9 or 12 marks – 1 to 1.5 sides of writing).

In many questions, pupils will be given a map, photo or other resource to use in their answer.

# What fieldwork will we do?

## Core Fieldwork

Fieldwork is a fundamental aspect of geography which we are fully committed to delivering. The pupils have **two fieldwork opportunities** as part of the GCSE Geography course.

One will take place in an **urban environment (Bristol)** and one will take place at a **river environment (Blackpool Brook)**.

## Optional Fieldwork

Fieldwork skills are assessed in Paper 3 – Geographical Applications. In addition every two years we run a foreign residential trip and have been to Iceland, the West Coast of USA and Italy in recent years.

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# What is the geography department like?

## Department Staff

The geography department is made up of a **team of 5 experienced, enthusiastic and committed teachers** with Miss Searle as Head of Department. In addition to their primary role as geography teacher, Mrs Bull is DofE Manager and Careers Leader, Mrs Cullis is Assistant Headteacher, Miss Niblett is Head of Selvey House and Mr Pearce is Website Coordinator.

## Department Resources

Geography is taught in **4 specialist classrooms**. All classrooms have interactive whiteboards. We also have a range of high quality departmental resources such as class iPads, specialist GIS software, modern texts and a set of 20 computers for pupil use.

## Department Support

Throughout the GCSE course, the department provide pupils with a **range of revision and homework support resources**. In addition, we offer the chance to purchase revision guides and flash cards at discounted rates for pupils. In the spring term of Year 11, the geography department offer **weekly revision sessions** for all pupils studying GCSE Geography. Each class teacher will also offer **bespoke support** for those that they feel would benefit from this.



# What kind of results do pupils get in it?

## 2023 GCSE Geography Results at Balcarras

31% grade 8-9

50% grade 7+

66% grade 6+

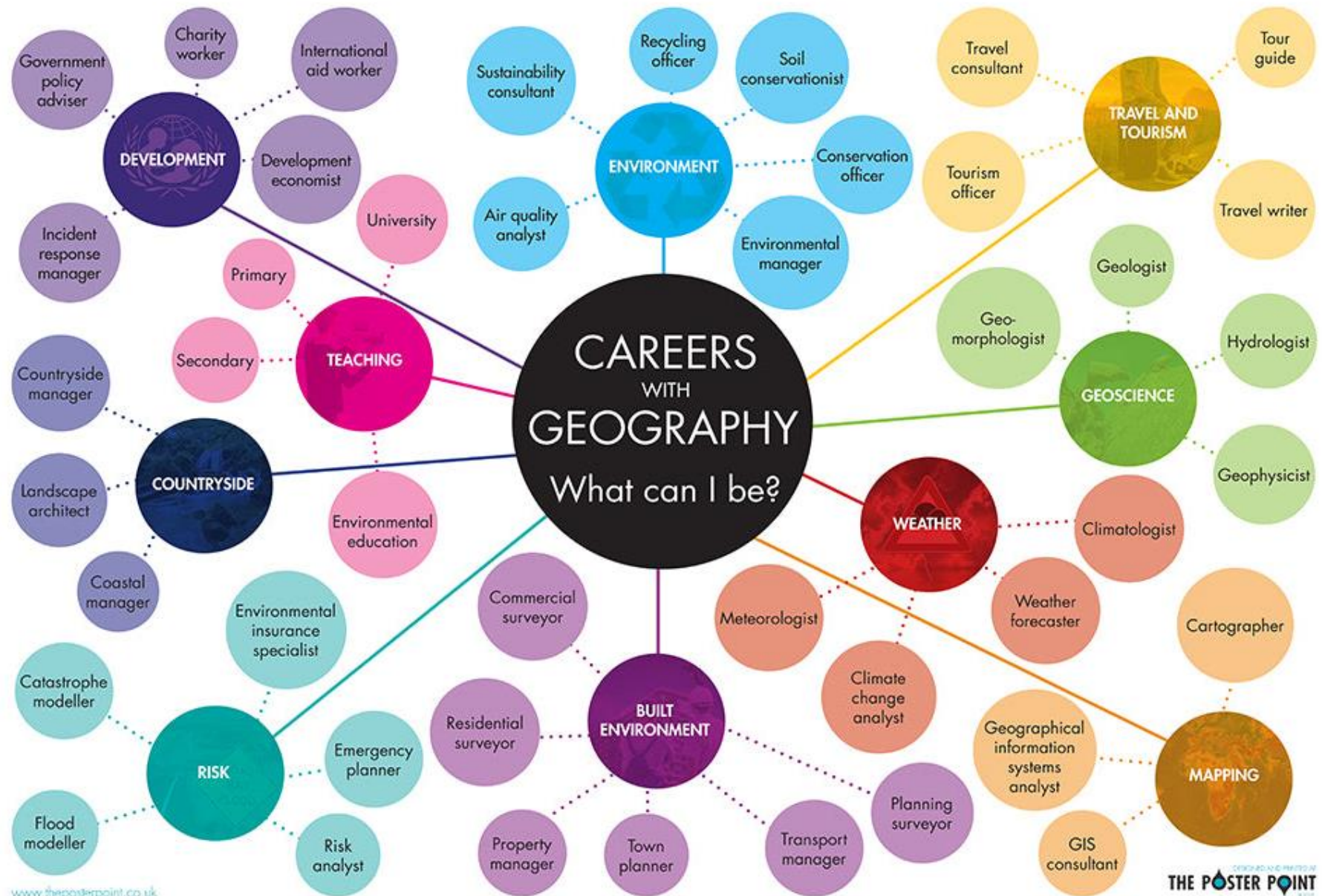
82% grade 5+

91% grade 4+



Congratulations to all our GCSE Geography students!

# Where could GCSE Geography take you?





# Options myth busting

~~There will be too much writing.~~

Wrong!

**The exam papers have a range of question styles including multiple choice, geographical skills, short answer and longer answer.**

~~If I take history I can't take geography.~~

Wrong!

**The timetable and options form enables you to choose BOTH geography and history if you want.**

~~GCSE Geography is full of essays.~~

Wrong!

**The longest exam questions in GCSE Geography are worth 9 or 12 marks – 1 to 1.5 sides of writing.**

~~I might not get a good grade in geography.~~

Wrong!

**Our past exam results show that pupils get higher grades in GCSE Geography than they do in History or RE. Come and join our success story!**

## Any questions?

# Balcarras Geographers...

Develop an understanding of current **geographical events, places and issues**, from local to global

Achieve their **maximum potential**

Understand and contribute to a **sustainable future**

Develop an **appreciation of the variety and interconnectedness** within the physical and human landscapes and processes

Appreciate the **differences between their locality and the wider world**

Understand **their place in the world**



Become **confident, active and global members of society**

Visualise and experience **geography through fieldwork** in their local environments, as well as further afield

Are **geographically literate** citizens

Become **curious, confident and independent thinkers**

Are equipped with **transferable skills**, such as greater spatial awareness, literacy, communication, numeracy, enquiry, problem solving and computing

Develop the life skills and knowledge to be **responsible citizens**

# And remember, as a GCSE Geographer...



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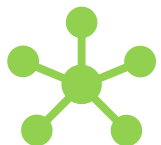
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