

Geography



In Geography you will study about places, people and what shapes the environment. You will learn how the environment influences people, and how they change the environment. You will develop your ability to draw and understand maps, graphs and diagrams, as well as studying photographs and collecting information outside the classroom through fieldwork.

What will I learn in Geography?

Some of the things you will learn include:

- where people live (the human habitat) and why they live there (population and settlement patterns)
- the natural world and what influences and shapes it
- the world of human activities and what influences and shapes it
- how to get and use information from different sources such as textbooks, maps, photographs, graphs, diagrams, newspapers, DVDs and the Internet.



How will I learn Geography in school?

Some of the things you may do with your teacher and your classmates are:

- work on your own, but also share information with others
- collect useful information related to Geography both inside and outside the classroom
- learn and use important geographical terms
- learn how to read a map and find your way
- draw diagrams of natural and man-made geographical features.



How can I learn more about Geography outside of school?

Some of the things you may do are:

- watch news reports and documentaries on TV and DVD
- research subjects from books, newspapers and magazines at home and in the public library
- use the Internet to research places and people
- observe differences in the landscapes when on holidays
- write to or e-mail people your own age in other countries
- do your homework!

How will I know how I am getting on?

Your teacher will let you know:

- what you did well
- where you need to improve
- what you could do to improve.

Other things you may do are:

- ask a friend to look at your work
- look back over your work to see how you have improved.

What is the Geography Junior Certificate exam like?

In the examination, you will answer twenty short questions in the first part of the paper, and three questions requiring longer answers in the second part. There will be questions on map-reading, and on explaining photographs, diagrams and charts. There is also an optional field-study project.

You can take the exam at Higher or at Ordinary level. When the time comes to decide, your teacher will help you choose the level that suits you best.



Is learning Geography anything like what I did in primary school?

In primary school, you have studied Geography as part of SESE. You have also learned about many geographical ideas through studying the local, national and global environment. Junior Certificate Geography builds on these geographical ideas.



Will Geography have anything to do with other subjects I will be studying?

In your studies of Geography, you will develop your communication skills as you would in English. You will study tables and draw graphs as in Mathematics. Geography, like Science, is concerned with the environment. Geography and CSPE both include themes such as care for the environment and issues concerned with the unequal division of the world's wealth and resources.

How will Geography be useful to me?

Everybody uses geography in their daily lives. When you think of where to go on holiday or wonder what tomorrow's weather will be like, you are thinking geography. When you look at an atlas map, or a town plan, or a weather map, you use what we learn in Geography. Geography prepares you for careers in town planning, outdoor pursuits education, weather forecasting, tourism and transport. Geography keeps you informed of topics which arise in conversation, current affairs, newspaper reports, and on TV, such as climate change, renewable energy and aid to poorer nations.

Will Geography be very different after the Junior Certificate?

In Leaving Certificate Geography, some of the topics will be familiar and will be covered in much greater detail. New topics will also be introduced such as regions of the world. There is also a geographical investigation, involving field-work, which is a compulsory part of the examination.



For more information about the Geography course
www.curriculumonline.ie

For more information about the Junior Certificate exam

www.examinations.ie

For more information about geography
www.scoilnet.ie

www.skool.ie

www.geography.learnontheinternet.co.uk

This fact sheet and other fact sheets are available to download from www.ncca.ie

NCCA  National Council for Curriculum and Assessment
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