



'Geography makes a vital contribution to our knowledge of the rapidly changing environmental and social challenges facing us and how we should tackle them. A geography education has never been so relevant.' Royal Geographical Society.

At Thomas Mills High School and Sixth Form we teach GCSE OCR B Geography: Geography for enquiring minds. We alternate between physical and human geography topics and complete two local fieldtrips to Southwold and Ipswich Waterfront. This course allows our pupils to think critically, interpret and analyse data and make sense of the world around them both natural and man-made.

OCR state their aims and learning outcomes are:

- Develop and extend their knowledge of locations, places, environments and processes, and of different scales including global; and of social, political and cultural contexts (know geographical material).
- Gain understanding of the interactions between people and environments, change in places and processes over space and time, and the inter-relationship between geographical phenomena at different scales and in different contexts (think like a geographer).
- Develop and extend their competence in a range of skills including those used in fieldwork, in using maps and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and in researching secondary evidence, including digital sources; and develop their competence in applying sound enquiry and investigative approaches to questions and hypotheses (study like a geographer).
- Apply geographical knowledge, understanding, skills and approaches appropriately and creatively to real world contexts, including fieldwork, and to contemporary situations and issues; and develop well-evidenced arguments drawing on their geographical knowledge and understanding (applying geography).

Year 9

Term	Topic	Knowledge and Skills	Useful Links
1	Global hazards: Tectonic	Knowledge: This topic allows learners to develop an understanding of a variety of hazards that impact human lives both within the UK and worldwide. Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are just some of the deadly hazards we face on Earth. Not only do they impact humans but they also shape our land. An understanding of tectonic hazards is developed; exploring the causes, consequences and responses to a tectonic event of choice.	Specification: OCR GCSE (9–1) in Geography B (Geography for Enquiring Minds) (J384) Specification Seneca learning: Seneca - Learn 2x Faster Tectonic landscapes and hazards: Tectonic landscapes and hazards - GCSE Geography - BBC Bitesize



		Case studies: Haiti earthquake 2010, Iceland volcano 2010 Skills: Map and data interpretation. Research skills.	Tectonic hazard impacts: What are the effects of tectonic hazards? - Internet Geography Plate tectonic theory: The theory and discovery of plate tectonics Haiti earthquake 2010: https://handygeography.wordpress.com/gcse/the-restless-earth-revision-materials/earthquake-case-study-haiti-poor/ Iceland volcano case study: Eyjafjallajökull Case Study - Internet Geography
Assessments		One of the key challenges at GCSE is accessing and decoding the exam language and command words. Regular application of content to exam questions is key for building confidence and success at GCSE. Assessment 1: Tectonic plates and boundaries exam practice short answer questions set as a homework (19 marks) Assessment 2: Earthquakes short answer questions completed in class and essay on Haiti earthquake as homework (32 marks) Assessment 3: End of topic test using past exam questions. In class in exam conditions.(33 marks)	
2	Dynamic Development	Knowledge: We live in an unequal world, where the gap between prosperity and poverty is widening. This topic asks learners to consider the changing nature and distribution of countries along the development spectrum before examining the complex causes of uneven development. The future for Low Income Developing Countries (LIDCs) is uncertain and will be investigated through an in-depth study of one country,	Specification: OCR GCSE (9–1) in Geography B (Geography for Enquiring Minds) (J384) Specification Seneca learning: Seneca - Learn 2x Faster



		considering its development journey so far, how its global connections may influence the future and possible alternative development strategies. Case study: Democratic Republic of the Congo. Skills: To understand the barriers to development for an LIDC and examine how they can be inter-related.	Theories of development: Theories of development - RGS Democratic Republic of the Congo Case Study: D.R.Congo - an LDC
Assessments		Assessment 1: Factors affecting development short answer exam questions (20 marks). Homework task. Assessment 2: Increasing development-stages and goals. Short answer exam questions completed in class and practice essay as homework task (17 marks). Assessment 3: End of topic test (25 marks). In class in exam conditions.	
3	Distinctive Landscapes	Knowledge: The UK contains a diverse and distinct range of landscapes. This topic gives learners the opportunity to unravel the geographical processes that make them distinctive. A deeper understanding of the geomorphic processes that shape river and coastal landscapes and consideration of the human influence on these is developed. Case studies: Purbeck coast, Dorset. River Thames. Fieldwork: How does hard engineering shape the coast at Southwold? Skills: Application of processes to UK case study examples. Map and data interpretation. Evaluation of human activities in physical landscapes.	Specification: OCR GCSE (9–1) in Geography B (Geography for Enquiring Minds) (J384) Specification Seneca learning: Seneca - Learn 2x Faster Physical geography of the UK: Physical Geography of the UK - UK Landscapes - Internet Geography Distinctive landscapes: Physical landscapes in the UK - Distinctive landscapes in the UK - OCR - GCSE Geography Revision - OCR - BBC Bitesize Coastal management: Coastal Management – Field Studies Council Purbeck coast Case Study: Dorset Coast - Internet Geography



			River processes: River profiles - River processes - OCR - GCSE Geography Revision - OCR - BBC Bitesize River landforms: Erosional landforms - River landforms - OCR - GCSE Geography Revision - OCR - BBC Bitesize River Thames case study: Distinctive Landscapes- River Thames case study Flashcards Quizlet
Assessment	Assessment 1: UK landscape (16 marks). Short answer exam questions as homework task. Assessment 2: Coastal landscapes (19 marks). Short answer questions in class and essay on Dorset coast for homework. Assessment 3: River landforms short answer exam questions (22 marks). Homework task. Assessment 4: UK river landscapes short answer exam questions and River Thames essay. Short answer in class and essay for homework. Assessment 5: Distinctive landscapes end of topic test using past exam questions (49 marks). Exam conditions. Assessment 6: Physical fieldwork exam questions on Southwold fieldtrip (22 marks). Homework task.		