



Higher Geography How to pass



1. Course Outline

- To be successful it is vitally important that both pupils and parents understand the course itself.
- The course has two main elements, an exam (73% of final grade) and an assignment (27% of final grade).

The Exam

The exam is worth 160 marks which is then scaled back to 80 marks. Higher Geography consists of two papers.

Paper 1 (1hour 50minutes) – 100 marks

Physical Geography-50marks

Lithosphere, Hydrosphere, Atmosphere and Biosphere

Human Geography-50marks

Population, Rural and Urban

Paper 2 (1hour 10mins) – 60 marks

Global Issues-40marks

Development and Health and River Basin Management

Application of Geographical Skills -20marks

The Assignment

The assignment is worth 30 marks.

Pupils are expected to:

- Identify a geographical topic/issue
- Carry out research involving fieldwork and maps
- Collect and process data from this fieldwork
- Reach a conclusion supported by their evidence

The assessment for the assignment will be a write up in 90mins under exam conditions

2. Steps pupils can take to achieve the best course award that they can in Higher Geography:

- Come to class prepared and with a positive attitude to learning. If pupils give their best in each and every lesson, the synthesis of knowledge and skills gained will be just as vital as revision.
- Homework will be issued weekly. Students should meet all deadlines whilst ensuring submissions reflect their best work.
- Attend study support. This will run on a weekly basis on a Wednesday from 3:30 until 4:30 with Mr Prentice (Rm19) and Mr Henderson (Rm24)
- Use Edmodo. This website will contain resources and key dates, specifically for students studying Higher Geography at Castle Douglas High School.

- Exam technique
- Use the case studies given in class- merely mentioning a specific case study will gain a mark.
- Use diagrams when prompted.
- Use grid references during the application of geographical skills – up to four marks are available for appropriate and accurate grid references.
- Read the question carefully. For example ‘describe’, ‘explain’ or ‘evaluate’ questions are answered very differently.

3. Revision Tips

- Create a revision timetable – this will ensure complete course coverage and break units down into manageable chunks.
- Set aside 1 or 2 hours per revision session (e.g. 1 hour revising/1hour off OR 2 hours revising/ 2 hours off)
- Switch off your phone to minimise distractions.
- Create mind maps of each unit – these can be displayed somewhere prominent to aid recall.
- Create flashcards. These are usually more detailed than mind maps and again can be displayed somewhere prominent to aid recall.
- Teach somebody else. Talking through specific parts of the course can further strengthen understanding – try it with parents, siblings or friends.

4. Useful websites

SQA course information, including past papers and marking schemes:

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47922.html>

BBC Bitesize:

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zmhs34j>

Edmodo:

<https://www.edmodo.com/>

(CDHS Higher Geography Group Code: ej8mwh)

5. Get in touch

Please get in touch if you have any questions or concerns throughout the year.

Staff contact details:

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