

HIGHERS IN A NUTSHELL

The National Parent Forum of Scotland Summary of Higher Geography

GEOGRAPHY
SOCIAL STUDIES

CfE
HIGHER

3
UNITS

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENTS
HUMAN ENVIRONMENTS
GLOBAL ISSUES

+
COURSE
ASSESSMENT

ASSIGNMENT + QUESTION PAPER



Skills

Learners will be able to:

- use a wide range of geographical skills and techniques
- understand the complexity of ways in which people and the environment interact in response to physical and human processes on local, national, international and global scales
- understand spatial relationships and the complexity of the changing world in a balanced, critical and sympathetic way
- develop a geographical perspective on environmental and social issues and their significance
- develop an interest in, understanding of, and concern for the environment and sustainable development



Opportunities for Learners

Learners will be able to:

- use, interpret, evaluate and analyse a wide range of geographical information
- interpret and explain complex geographical phenomena
- use a wide range of maps and other data to process and communicate complex geographical information
- develop research skills, including fieldwork
- develop an awareness of a range of geographical information systems through ICT or alternative means



Assessment

- To gain Higher Geography, learners must pass the three Units and the Course Assessment (Assignment and Question Paper for 90 marks)
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre and are quality assured by the SQA. Achievement of Units is recorded on the learner's qualifications certificate
- The SQA has provided examples of Unit assessments that teachers/lecturers can use as they are, or adapt to suit the needs of learners
- The Course Assessment consists of an Assignment (30 marks) and a Question Paper (exam for 60 marks) which is in four sections (see below). These are marked externally by the SQA
- Higher Geography is graded from A to D or as No Award.



Question Paper

There are four sections:

- one for each of the three Unit topics
- one on the application of geographical skills

2 hours 15 minutes

50 marks

10 marks

Specimen Paper

www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/GeographySQPH.pdf

Assignment

Learners will research a geographical issue of their choice and will write up a report on their research under timed conditions.

30 marks



Progression Higher courses can stand alone or follow on from National 5 qualifications and may lead to Advanced Highers, the Scottish Baccalaureate and a range of qualifications within Further and Higher Education.



For course information, specimen question papers and past paper guidance visit:

Higher Geography: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47922.html

Curriculum for Excellence Key Terms and Features Factfile

www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CfEFactfileOverview_tcm4-665983.pdf

Further Information for Parents and Learners Information on assessment, skills, progression, revision resources and summaries of National Qualifications

www.parentforumscotland.org



the National Parent
Forum of Scotland

www.parentforumscotland.org

enquiries@parentforumscotland.org

parentforumscotland

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