



Woodkirk Academy

Geography

How we Identify MAA in Geography

Students identified as More Academically Able (**MAA**) in Geography demonstrate an extensive subject knowledge and understanding that is well above the average for a students' age. They are able to develop independent learning skills more rapidly than their peers as well analyse and interpret information with ease. In addition, they demonstrate the enthusiasm and genuine interest in the subject to succeed and reach their full potential.

How we identify UA in Geography

A secondary school student is considered to be Upper Ability (**UA**) if the average level he/she achieved in his/her Key Stage 2 English and Mathematics SATs is Level 5 or above. Year 7 students who completed the new Key Stage 2 exams in 2016 have been identified using an equivalent measure.

Skills

Key Stage 3 sets the foundation for equipping students with the necessary knowledge, understanding, skills and work ethic required to successfully meet the demands and rigour of their GCSE studies at Key Stage 4. Key Stage 5 takes this further with a strong focus on developing a broad, deep understanding of the subject through extensive independent research.

MAA and UA students in Geography are likely to:

- Have extensive subject knowledge and understanding.
- Be able to synoptically link new concepts and ideas.
- Be keen and enthusiastic to learn and have a genuine passion for the subject.
- Communicate effectively both verbally and in writing.
- Use subject specific vocabulary confidently and accurately.
- Ask challenging questions about geographical topics and case studies.
- Undertake extensive additional research/reading to further their knowledge and understanding, especially at Key Stages 4 and 5.
- Be observant, recall geographical stories in the news and apply them to their studies.
- Collect, select, describe, analyse and draw valid conclusions from data/information.
- Possess advanced map skills and apply them with ease.
- See both sides of an argument/issue and consider the views of people involved.
- Easily transfer skills from other subjects to geography and vice versa.
- Reflect constructively on their own performance and identify areas for improvement.

Strategies for Success in the classroom

- Increasing the pace of teaching and learning
- Designing open-ended activities that stretch and challenge students
- Use of 'super-learner' activities to develop higher order thinking skills
- Using a range of questioning techniques to stretch and challenge students, including open ended questions to develop deeper understanding
- Developing higher order thinking skills by encouraging students to analyse and evaluate geographical information
- Using higher order command words in questioning and task setting e.g. justify, discuss, analyse, evaluate, assess, etc.
- Providing more challenging text for students to use in lessons
- Encouraging students to include more advanced geographical terms in their written work and verbal answers
- Encouraging independent study and setting wider reading tasks
- Offering access to high quality resources that encourage wider reading e.g. geographical websites; journals such as Wide World at GCSE and Geography Review at A Level

Challenges for UA in Geography and how to overcome these

Challenge	Overcome
Writing sufficient detail in extended writing answers to enable students to access higher mark band.	Use exemplar answers to show students what a higher mark band answer looks like. Use 'answer grids' at Key Stages 3 and 4, and 'essay plans' at Key Stage 5 to encourage well-structured and detailed answers. Use of 'PEEL' and 'so what' rules to develop ideas and explanations.
Develop successful exam preparation techniques (learning the content and exam practice) to allow students to reach high levels of attainment.	Use exam specifications to enable effective revision strategies. Encourage students to discuss, identify and use effective revision techniques. Complete practice papers and hand to teacher for marking and feedback.
To undertake extensive additional reading, especially at Key Stages 4 and 5	Direct students to specific articles or area on school 'pupil share' drive Complete wider reading evaluation sheets to demonstrate and evidence their learning.

How can Parents help?

- Encourage your son/daughter to challenge and stretch themselves by completing class and homework beyond the level normally expected
- Encourage them to undertake additional research to supplement their class notes, especially at GCSE and A Level
- Ensure they keep up to date with current affairs using news websites, geographical websites (eg Geography in the News), newspapers and other sources

- At GCSE and A Level, encourage your son/daughter complete additional exam questions, ask their teacher to mark them and act on the feedback given
- At GCSE read exemplar answers (see AQA website) and at A Level read examiner's reports (see Edexcel website) to identify good practice
- Take your son/daughter to geographical sites of interest on days out/holidays to broaden and develop their experience of geography
- Subscribe to geographical publications such as GCSE Wide World and A Level Geographical Review – ask a geography teacher for more information!

Please use the following websites to help support your son/daughter:

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography AQA website for GCSE Geography – you'll find exam specifications, past papers, mark schemes, sample answers and exam advice!

qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/geography-2016.html Edexcel website for new A Level Geography (2016 onwards) – you'll find exam specifications, past papers, mark schemes, examiner's reports and exam advice!

www.woodkirkacademy.co.uk/students/homework/year-11/geography Woodkirk Academy Geography Department area – you'll find copies of GCSE exam checklists and revision sheets that your son/daughter will be using in class.

www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zkw76sg GCSE Bitesize revision website – you'll find interactive activities, quizzes and topic tests!

www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zrw76sg Key Stage 3 Bitesize revision – you'll find interactive activities, quizzes and topic tests!

www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse/geography S-Cool revision – you'll find lots of GCSE interactive activities, quizzes and topic tests!

www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/education/index.html Ordnance Survey website – you'll find games, resources and other ideas to practice and improve mapskills!

geography.org.uk/resources/earthquake-and-tsunami-resources/ Geographical association website – you'll find lots of up-to-date resources for most geography topics!

www.rgs.org/OurWork/Schools/School+Members+Area/School+Members+Area Geography in the news website – you'll find lots of articles, information and up-to-date stories about geographical events happening around the world!

www.youtube.com/channel/UCfJmmkL7aRR_nKgZy8525PQ Woodkirk Academy You Tube channel – you'll find lots of video clips covering many of the topics studied in class.

www.youtube.com/channel/UCMMuYloA-KwcVU_bbLQXcRw/playlists You Tube Internet Geography Channel - you'll find lots of video clips covering many of the topics studied in class.

www.geography.learnontheinternet.co.uk/topics/index.html Internet Geography website – you'll find lots of useful facts, case studies and resources for a range of topics studied in class.

www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/geography-facts.html Kids world travel website – you'll find lots of useful facts, games and quizzes for a range of topics studied in class, especially at Key Stage 3.