



Geography Syllabus
2011 – 2012 Academic Year
Year 8

Course Leader – Mr. Scott Simpson, Miss. Linda Strydom, Mr. Scott Suttonwood

Grade Boundaries

4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	100

Course Description

The Year 8 course aims to give students an overview of geography at a global level and aims to develop the student's geographical skills in the following areas:

- ✓ Ability to orientate using various types of map or plan.
- ✓ Ability to read and interpret statistical data, topographical maps, historical maps, thematic maps, photographic and satellite images.
- ✓ Understand and apply the core aspects of physical, human and economic geography.
- ✓ Ability to analyse using direct and indirect observations a territory in order to understand its organisation, individual aspects and its relationship with the environment.
- ✓ Compare and contrast individual states using maps, statistical data, graphics and images using aspects of physical, human and environmental geography.
- ✓ Design varying types of map, using conventional symbols.

The course builds on the four geographical aspects identified in the English Curriculum:

- ✓ Geographical skills and enquiry
- ✓ Knowledge and understanding of places
- ✓ Knowledge and understanding of patterns and processes

Course Curriculum

1. Earth Processes

- ✓ The structure of the Earth
 - The Earth's main layers
- ✓ Plate tectonics
 - Continental drift
 - Plate Margins
 - Formation of volcanic and fold mountain ranges
- ✓ Earthquakes
 - Distribution of earthquakes on the Earth's surface
 - Causes and effects of earthquakes
 - Mercalli and Richter scale
- ✓ Volcanoes
 - Distribution of volcanoes on the Earth's surface
 - Structure of a volcano – Composite, Shield and Dome volcanoes



2. World climate and Biomes

- ✓ Climate
 - Factors affecting climate
 - Distribution of world climates
 - Characteristics of Equatorial, Tropical, Desert and Mediterranean climates
- ✓ Biomes
 - Distribution of main biomes
 - Characteristics of Desert, Savanna and Rainforests biomes
 - How plants and animals have adapted for life in these environments

3. Population

- Distribution of world population
- Positive and negative location factors
- World population change
- Factors affecting BR's and DR's
- Migration

4 Continents and Countries

- ✓ The Asian Continent
 - Main physical and human features
 - The Extreme Orient: China, Japan
- ✓ The African Continent
 - Main physical and human features
 - Central /Eastern Africa: Kenya
 - Western Africa: Ghana
- ✓ The American Continent
 - Main physical and human features
 - The Anglo-Saxon region: The United States
 - South America: Brazil
- ✓ Oceania
 - Main physical and human features
 - Australia

Course Assessment

Examination accounts for 75% of the final grade (3 exams):

The remaining 25% of the final grade is broken down as follows: 30% Homework 30% Oral Interrogations 20% Quizzes 20% Participation/Attitude/Behaviour

Student Expectations

Equipment for learning:

Exercise book, Course Textbooks, Homework Diary, Pens, Pencils, Colouring pencils and a Ruler.

Students are reminded to adhere to all standards set out in the Secondary School rules