

Introduction

Welcome to your Oxford Home Schooling Key Stage Three Geography course! In this Introduction you will read about what you may expect from the course and how to plan your Geography studies effectively.

This course will take you through all the material of Key Stage Three (Years 7-9) of the National Curriculum for Geography (England and Wales). It will prepare students for the SATs once tackled by schoolchildren at or near the end of Year 9, although such tests are no longer normally set.

Past England and Wales SATs papers can be purchased from:

www.sats-past-papers.co.uk/index.php?manufacturers_id=19

This course has been set out in twenty modules which bring together the various topics (and skills) that need to be developed in Years 7-9. There are seven modules in Year 7.

By studying this course, you will develop an understanding of what Geography is all about. One of our main aims is that you will enjoy the material and want to carry on learning about geography when the course is over!



Arrangement of Lessons

Year 7

Module 1 Introductory module

- Lesson 1 What is Geography?
- Lesson 2 Exploring latitude and longitude

TMA A

Module 2 Water and weather

- Lesson 3 What is the water cycle?
- Lesson 4 How do you measure weather?
- Lesson 5 Rain, wind and clouds
- Lesson 6 UK weather

TMA B

Module 3 Settlements

- Lesson 7 A place: what is its site and situation?
- Lesson 8 A place: what is its function?
- Lesson 9 A town: are there different zones?

TMA C

Module 4 Shopping

- Lesson 10 How has shopping changed?
- Lesson 11 Shopping now: types of goods

TMA D

Module 5 Earth's Structure

- Lesson 12 What is the world made of?
- Lesson 13 How are rocks made?
- Lesson 14 There is a quarry opening next door!

TMA E

Module 6 Rivers

- Lesson 15 How is scenery changed?
- Lesson 16 What do you see as you go down the river?
- Lesson 17 What makes rivers flood?

TMA F

Module 7 Farming

- Lesson 18 Farming in the UK
- Lesson 19 Farming in Kenya
- Lesson 20 Farming and Fairtrade

TMA G (End of Year Exam)

Required supporting texts

This course is designed to provide KS3 students with everything they need for effective geographical study and it is *not* necessary to purchase any specific supporting texts.

From time to time, advice is given on suitable further reading, including other books and relevant websites. Good IT skills will definitely be an advantage.

The Structure within Lessons: How to Study

Front Page

The front page of every lesson shows:

- the **title**
- the **aim(s)** for the lesson. These tell you what you should have learned after having worked through the lesson.
- the **context**. This gives a brief summary of how this particular lesson relates to the rest of the course.

Lessons

You should read all sections of the lesson carefully until you have a thorough understanding of the topics. Your parent or guardian will have their own guide, and they or your tutor will be able to help you with any aspects of lessons that you find particularly difficult.

Activities

Every lesson also has a range of questions, practical activities and internet activities to make the topics more exciting and easy to understand. They usually look like this:

Activity

Activities often involve writing a short answer or drawing a diagram. Suggested answers to these activities are generally given within the Parental Guide for each module.



When you see the pencil symbol (left), it is expected that you will write your answer in the space provided. Depending on the size of your handwriting and what you want to say, you may well find that there is not always enough space. If so, continue your answer on a separate sheet of paper and file it in the relevant place in your copy of the course.

Some optional activities are marked as 'Extension Activities'. You can do these if you would like to try something a bit more challenging, or if you are particularly keen on the topic.

Twig Resources

Alongside the course materials, you have the opportunity to watch a number of films on the internet, all produced by a company called Twig. Welcome to Twig World!

These films cover almost every aspect of science at secondary level. They are full of information and memorable pictures.

To view the films, you will need an e-mail account, internet access and a password, supplied to you on enrolment. As you work through the lessons, you will come across Twig-links quite regularly, looking like this:



Log on to Twig and look at the film titled **Cloudspotting: Low-Level Clouds**.

www.ool.co.uk/1212gt

How do the clouds closest to the Earth affect our weather?
How are they formed and what do they look like?

To reach the film, you would either type the URL into your web-browser (here www.ool.co.uk/1212gt) or search the Twig site (www.twig-world.co.uk) for 'Cloudspotting: Low-Level Clouds' or simply 'Clouds'. Having watched it, you return to the lesson.

The films have been made to help you understand ideas by seeing them in the real world. Please bear in mind:

1. Some of the films, in part, will be too “advanced” for your needs, include ideas you have not yet covered, so don’t worry if some bits seem a bit too hard.
2. If you find that a film is not helpful or interesting, stop watching it! It is possible to study the course successfully without watching *any* of the films.
3. Alongside each film, the Twig site offers various additional resources. You can download the words spoken in the film or tackle a quiz based on the film. These are optional extras if you have time.

Further notes on the use of the Twig films are given in the Parents’ Guide.

Tutor-Marked Assignments

Most modules are tested with a tutor-marked assignment (TMA), which will give you and your parent or guardian a very good idea of how well you are progressing. **You should answer all TMAs on lined paper.** This gives you the opportunity to develop neat, well-structured answers, as well as show what you have learned.

Alternatively, it may be possible for you to word-process your assignments and print them out or send them as e-mail attachments.

You should not write the answers to questions on the pages from the folder and then send them in to your tutor. There are two reasons for this: firstly, you should keep the original pages for revision, and secondly, it does not encourage good study skills and organisation of materials.

Guidance for Parents

There is a separate Parents' Guide for each year of the course as well as information at the end of each module. It is recommended that parents take these documents out of the course and keep them in a safe place.

Each Parents' Guide contains everything that a parent should need to offer practical support to the student. There is guidance on the content and aims of each lesson in the course, together with guidelines to help with marking some of the activities. Although it is possible for students to mark their own work, it is generally far more effective if a parent does the marking and provides feedback on the lesson as a whole.

The answers should also provide a starting point for discussion, so that you can let your parent or guardian know how easy or difficult you found the course material.

Your Tutor

Your tutor is available not only to mark the appropriate TMAs, but also to offer help and advice when needed.

And finally... very good luck with your studies!

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