

Follow up work: decisions about Coursework (Paper 3) or Paper 4.

The residential trip to Slapton is just part of the field work unit we are studying this term; the pupils have already had preparation lessons for the trip.

When we return we will spend the next two weeks consolidating the work from Slapton ready to make the decision about which paper your son or daughter will take as part of their IGCSE.

Week 5

During the Geography lessons and club time, I will go through what is required to produce coursework (called Paper 3).

Everyone will complete a short report on one aspect of the River Harbourne.

This must to be handed in by Friday 12th October (end of Week 6).

Week 6

During this week, pupils will be given Paper 4 fieldwork questions to answer under examination conditions. No revision will be required for these tests.

At the end of this week, the sample coursework started in Week 5 must be submitted.

I will then assess each pupil's performance and recommend either coursework (Paper 3) or the examination route (Paper 4) by Tuesday 16th October.

I will be happy to discuss my recommendations and no final decision has to be made at this stage however, the best time to work on coursework is during the coming half term.

If coursework is the preferred route, this needs to be remembered and time made to allow this to happen.

What is involved.

Both papers count for 27 ½% of the final mark. The choice will be based upon what approach is likely to achieve the best grade and which the pupil feels most comfortable about doing.

Paper 4 option

Pupils following this route will be practicing past questions in their coursework club sessions until Christmas and will receive additional questions as preps this term.

They will also need to attend Paper 4 revision sessions after they have taken the majority of their IGCSE/GCSE exams next May as the Paper 4 is always taken towards the end of the examination series, about 2 weeks after their last Geography exam. There are no charges for these additional revision sessions.

Coursework (Paper 3) option.

If coursework is chosen then the following guidelines and deadlines must be observed.

The initial short report will need to be expanded to cover all of the river data collected.

Pupils will need to work independently both in their own time and in the club sessions.

This has to be their own work and adults must refrain from helping them. Pupils can ask me for further guidance either in school or by email and I will give them help where I can within the examination board's guidelines.

Plagiarism and outside help are easy to detect and will compromise their examination result.

Pupils must write their reports using their school email and Google docs; this means all their work is constantly backed up and accessible both at home and in school.

There is no need to print off any work at home as we will do all the printing in school.

Coursework timetable

From Tuesday 16th October onwards – pupils will be writing up the coursework (using half term in particular) ready to print during coursework club on Wednesday 31st October. The coursework should effectively be finished by this date, allowing me to read it, give an indication of the grade it would receive, return it with comments and give pupils time to make any improvements before finally submitting on Friday 23rd November.

Key dates

Wednesday 31st October

- Coursework printed in black and white during the club session. Pupils then assemble their coursework adding in their graphs, sketches, photos etc.

Friday 2nd November

- Deadline to be handed in for preview marking, still in black and white at this stage.
- To take full advantage of this, pupils do need to have completed the work.

Wednesday 7th November

- Pupils will receive their first draft back from me with comments and an indication of the likely grade if submitted as it stands.
- Pupils will have two more week to make any adjustments.

Wednesday 21st November

- During the club session, pupils will print the final copy (in colour) and pupils will have until Friday 23rd November to hand in their completed coursework.

Friday 23rd November Coursework is finally submitted.

I hope I have answered any questions you may have about the subsequent coursework or paper 4 option but please contact me if you have any further queries.