GCSE

Geography

NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

What is **Geography**?

Geography is the subject that bridges the gap between **science** and **society**. It's about discovering how volcanoes erupt, why cities expand, how climate change is reshaping our world, and how people's lives are influenced by the places they live in.

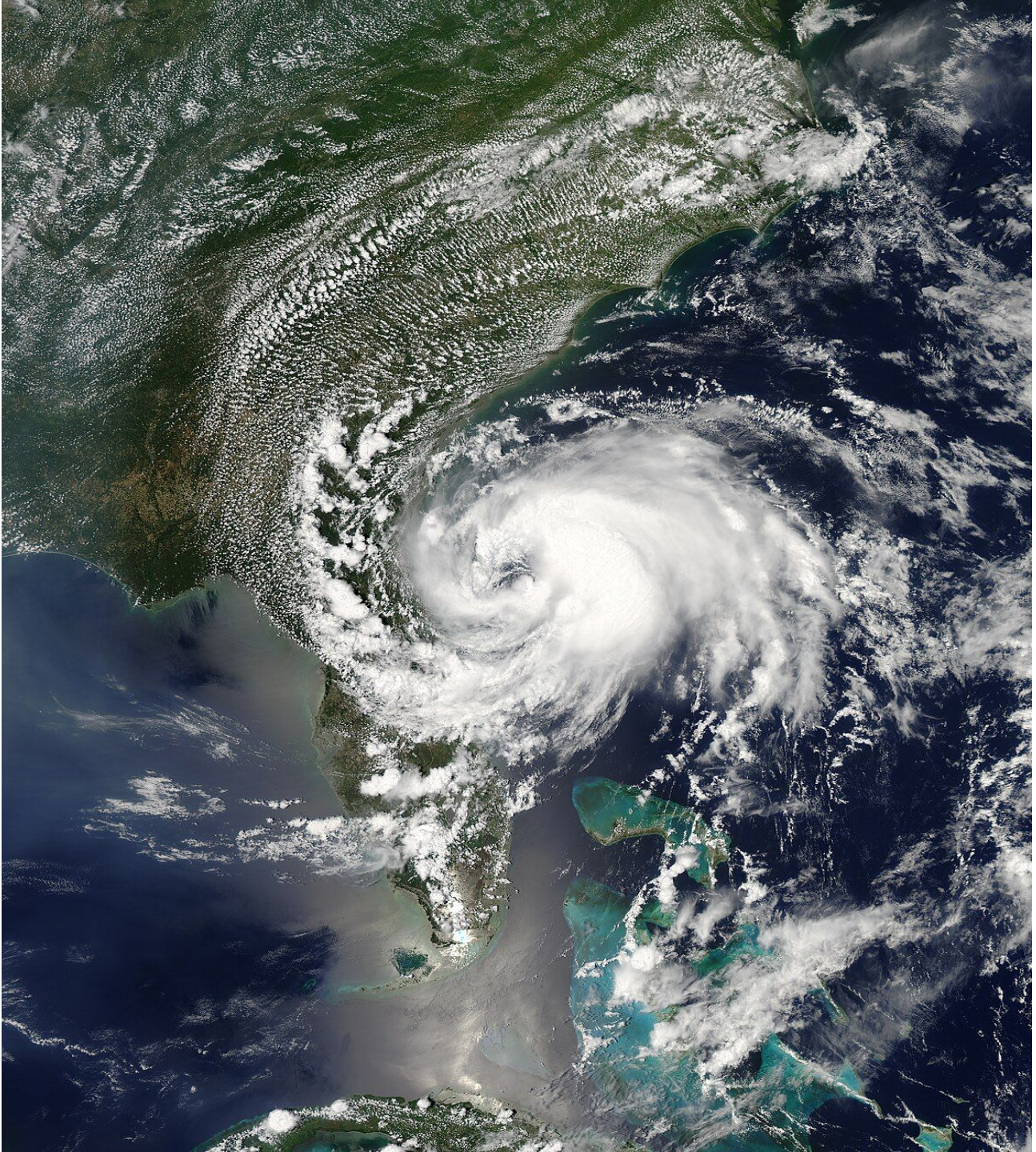
It's the subject that helps us make sense of the past, navigate the present, and plan for the future. **Geography** is **everywhere** - it's in the streets we walk down, in the weather we experience, in the technology that connects us, and in the decisions that shape our world.

Why **Geography**?

Choosing **Geography** at GCSE opens a world of opportunity. It develops skills in **problem-solving, critical thinking, data analysis,** and **fieldwork investigations**, which are highly valued in further education and beyond.

Geography is a **facilitating** subject, meaning it supports a **wide range of careers** including **environmental science**, **urban planning**, **meteorology**, **international relations**, **sustainability consulting**, **business, travel and tourism, law**, and even **media** and **journalism**.

Whether you want to become a conservationist, a diplomat, a GIS specialist, a climate scientist, or a disaster management expert - **Geography can take you there.**



NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Course Overview and structure.

Paper One: Living with the physical environment

How it is assessed

- **Written exam**: 1 hour 30 minutes
- **88 marks** (including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology (SPaG))
- **35**% of GCSE

What does the exam consist of?

- **Section A**: answer all questions (33 marks)
- **Section B:** answer all questions (25 marks)
- **Section C:** answer any two questions from questions 3, 4 and 5 (30 marks)
- **Question types**: multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response, extended prose

NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Course Overview and structure.

Paper Two: Challenges in the human environment

How it is assessed

- **Written exam**: 1 hour 30 minutes
- **88 marks** (including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology (SPaG))
- **35**% of GCSE

What does the exam consist of?

- **Section A:** answer all questions (33 marks)
- **Section B:** answer all questions (30 marks)
- **Section C:** answer question 3 and one from questions 4, 5 or 6 (25 marks)
- **Question types:** multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response, extended prose

NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Course Overview and structure.

Paper Three: Geographical applications

How it is assessed

- **Written exam:** 1 hour 30 minutes
- **76 marks** (including 6 marks for SPaG)
- **30**% of GCSE
- Pre-release resources booklet made available 12 weeks before Paper 3 exam

What does the exam consist of?

- **Section A**: answer all questions (37 marks)
- **Section B**: answer all questions (39 marks)
- **Question types**: multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response, extended prose

NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Assessment

GCSE: Grading 9-1, AQA exam board.

Assessment objectives (AOs) are consistent across all **GCSE Geography specifications** and **exam boards**.

The exams will measure how you have achieved the following assessment objectives.

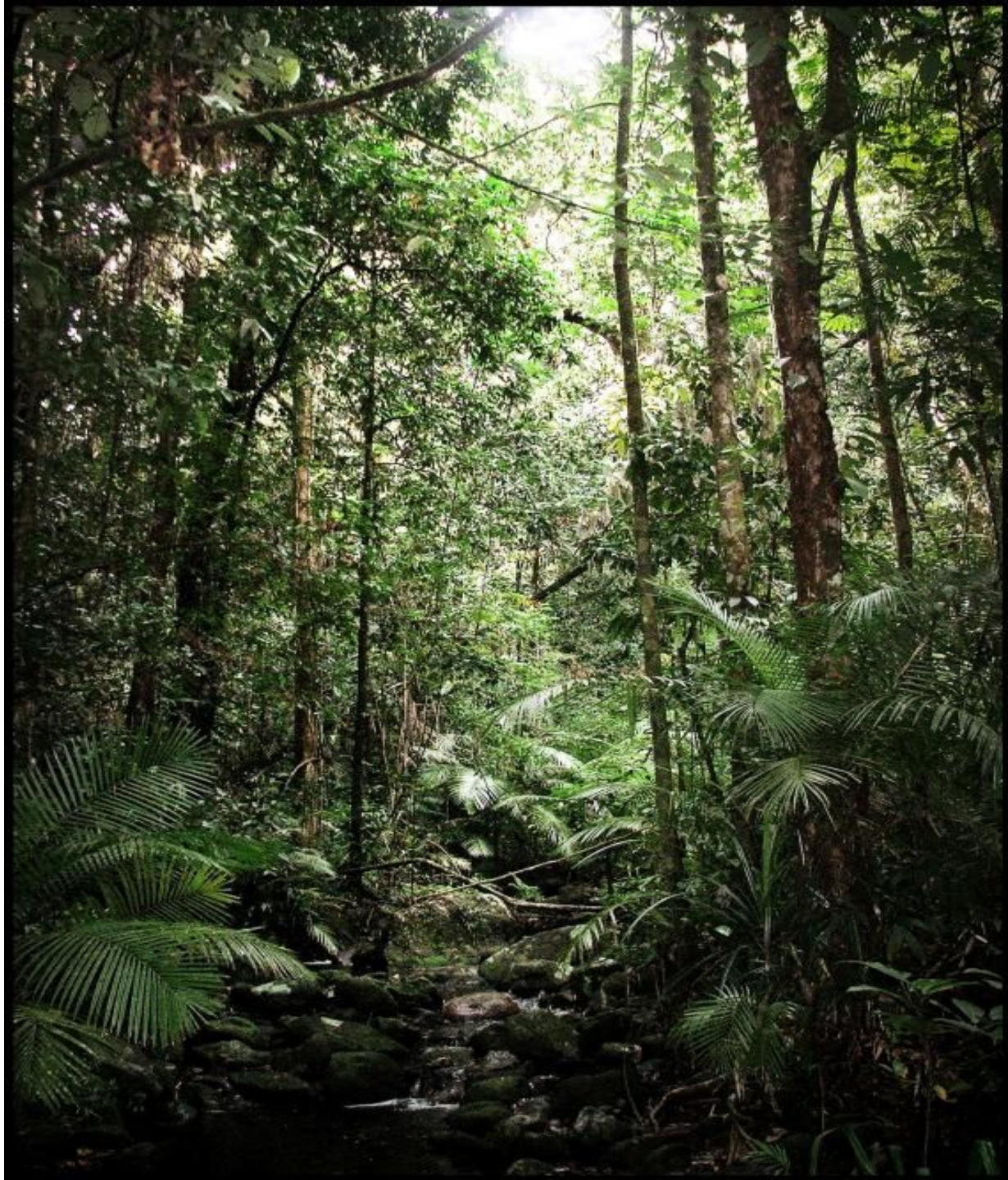
- **AO1:** Demonstrate knowledge of locations, places, processes, environments and different scales.
- **AO2:** Demonstrate geographic understanding of: concepts and how they are used in relation to places, environments and processes; the interrelationships between places, environments and processes.
- **AO3:** Apply knowledge and understanding to interpret, analyse and evaluate geographical information and issues to make judgements.
- **AO4:** Select, adapt and use a variety of skills and techniques to investigate questions and issues and communicate findings.

NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Paper One: Living with the physical environment

This **unit** is concerned with the **dynamic nature** of **physical processes** and **systems**, and **human interaction** with them in a variety of places and at a range of scales.

The aims of this unit are to develop an understanding of the **tectonic**, **geomorphological**, **biological** and **meteorological** processes and features in different environments, and the need for **management strategies** governed by **sustainability** and **consideration** of the direct and indirect effects of human interaction with the Earth and the atmosphere.



NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Paper One: Living with the physical environment (Sections)

Section A: The challenge of natural hazards

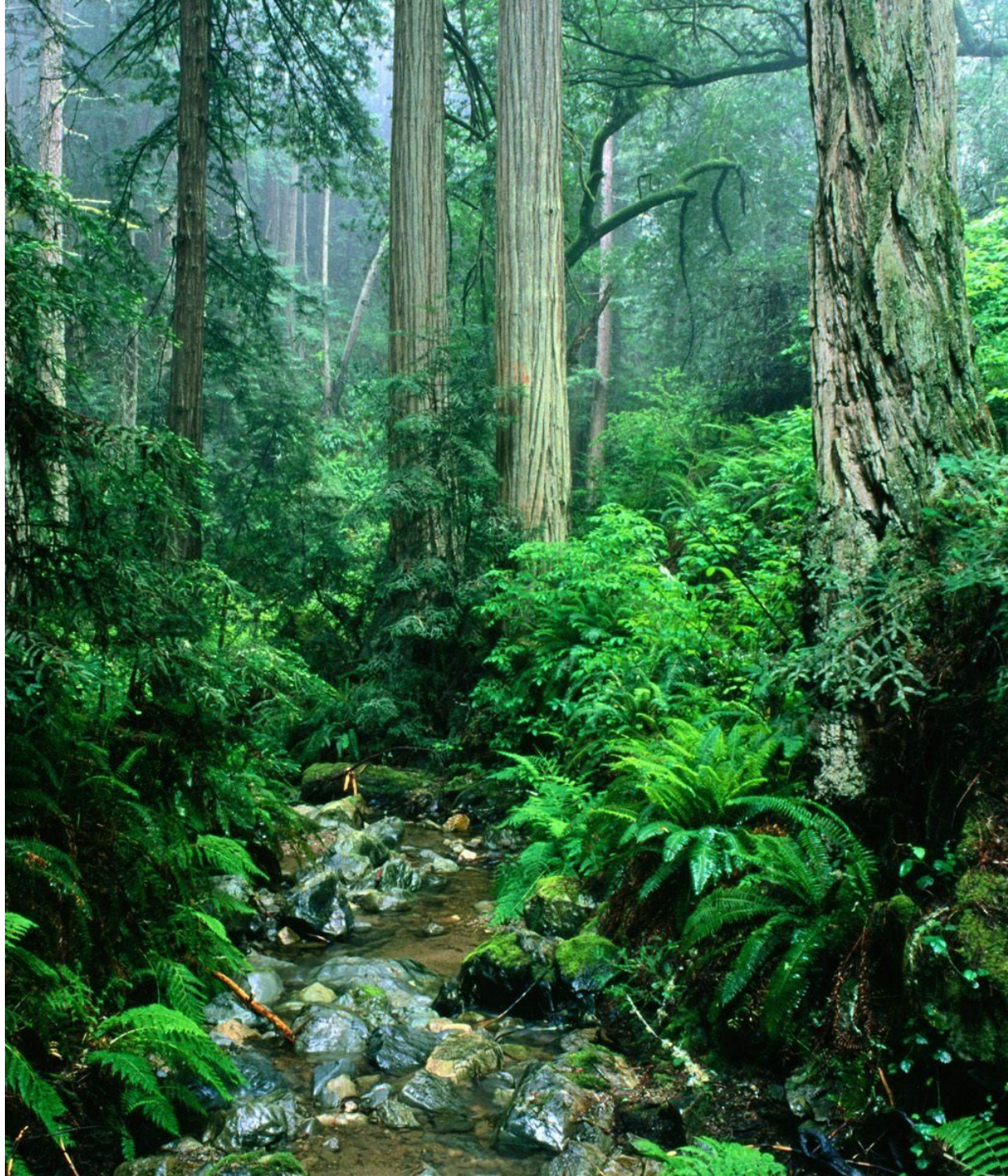
- Natural hazards
- Tectonic hazards
- Weather hazards
- Climate change

Section B: The living world

- Ecosystems
- Tropical rainforests
- Cold environments

Section C: Physical landscapes in the UK

- UK physical landscapes
- Coastal landscapes in the UK
- River landscapes in the UK



NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Paper Two: Challenges in the human environment

This **unit** is concerned with **human processes**, **systems** and **outcomes** and **how these change** both **spatially** and **temporally**. They are studied in a variety of places and at a range of scales and must include places in various states of development, such as higher income countries (HICs), lower income countries (LICs) and newly emerging economies (NEEs).

The aims of this unit are to **develop an understanding of the factors that produce a diverse variety of human environments**; the **dynamic nature of these environments** that change over time and place; the **need for sustainable management**; and the **areas of current and future challenge** and opportunity for these environments.

Paper Two is divided into **three** sections:

- **Section A:** Urban issues and challenges
- **Section B:** The changing economic world
- **Section C:** The challenge of resource management

NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Paper 3: Geographical applications

The **Geographical applications** unit is designed to be **synoptic** in that **students will be required to draw together knowledge, understanding and skills from the full course of study**.

It is an opportunity for students to show their **breadth of understanding** and an **evaluative appreciation** of the interrelationships between different aspects of geographical study.

Students are required to **develop and demonstrate a range of geographical skills**, including **cartographic**, **graphical**, **numerical** and **statistical skills**, throughout their study of the specification.

Skills will be assessed in all **three written exams**. Ordnance Survey (OS) maps or other map extracts may be used in any of the three exams.

NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

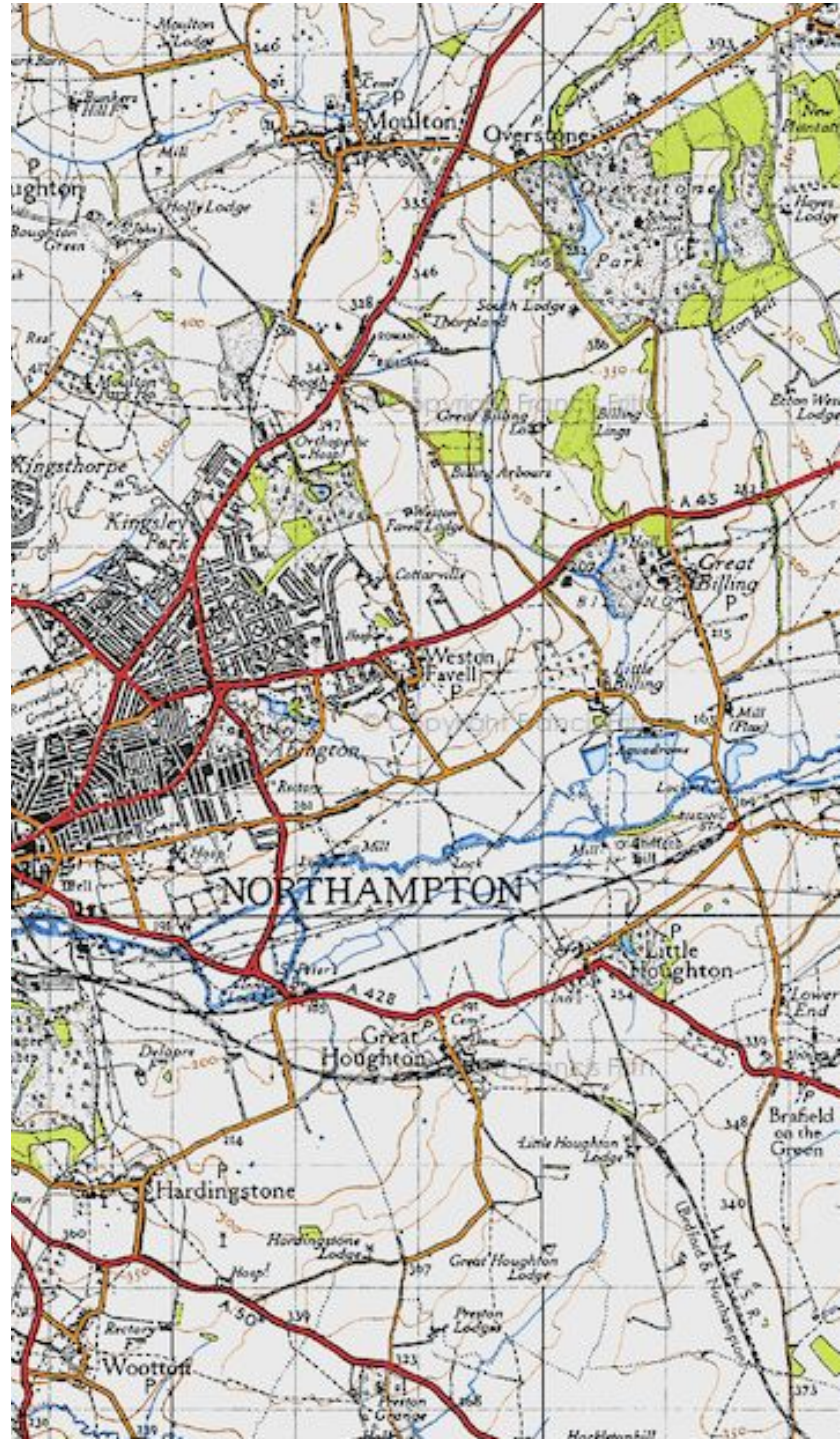
Paper 3: Geographical applications (Sections)

Section A: Issue evaluation

- Assessment will consist of a series of questions related to a contemporary geographical issue(s), leading to a more extended piece of writing which will involve an evaluative judgement. Students will apply knowledge and understanding to interpret, analyse and evaluate the information and issue(s) in the pre-release resources booklet and the question paper. They will also use geographical skills to set the issue(s) in context and to examine conflicting viewpoints about the issue(s).

Section B: Fieldwork

- Students' understanding of the enquiry process will be assessed by questions based on the use of fieldwork materials from an unfamiliar context and questions based on students' individual enquiry work. For these questions students will have to identify the titles of their individual enquiries.
- Students will be expected to apply knowledge and understanding to interpret, analyse and evaluate information and issues related to geographical enquiry and select, adapt and use a variety of skills and techniques to investigate questions and issues and communicate findings in relation to geographical enquiry.



NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Key Career Skills

- Analytical & critical thinking
- Data interpretation & problem solving
- Fieldwork & practical investigation
- Communication & argument construction
- Global awareness & decision making

Future career opportunities

Studying **Geography** can lead to a career in the;

- **Environment & sustainability sector e.g.** Environmental consultant, sustainability manager/consultant, renewable energy specialist
- **Urban planning sector e.g.** Town planner, transport planner, housing development officer
- **Disaster & risk management sector e.g.** Flood risk analyst, emergency management officer
- **GIS & technology sector e.g.** GIS analyst, cartographer, surveyor
- **International development & humanitarian sector e.g.** Aid worker, policy advisor for NGOs, human rights researcher

NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Future career opportunities

Studying **Geography** can lead to a career in the;

- **Teaching sector e.g.** Primary school teacher, secondary school teacher, university lecturer
- **Travel, tourism & heritage sector e.g.** Travel writer, tourism development officer, heritage conservation officer
- **Government & policy making sector e.g.** Environmental policy advisor, local government officer
- **Business & finance sector e.g.** Market research analyst, logistics and supply chain manager
- **Meteorology sector e.g.** meteorologist, climate scientist, oceanographer
- **Agriculture & resource management sector e.g.** Hydrologist, forestry manager

NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Future study opportunities

Studying **Geography** can lead to further study in;

- Any relevant subject at Level 3 (A level), for example at NSG we offer:
  - **A Level Geography**
  - **A Level History**
  - **A Level Politics**
  - **A Level Sociology**

- Other subjects, such as;
  - **International relations**
  - **Law**
  - **Journalism**
  - **Architecture**

NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS