



A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIPS
READING, BERKSHIRE ON 22 NOVEMBER 2019
EASTBOURNE, EAST SUSSEX ON 2&3 APRIL 2020



October 2019

Dear Parents

As part of your son's/daughter's A Level course, they will be carrying out an independent investigation as their non-examination assessment (NEA), which accounts for 20% of their final grade.

About the NEA

The NEA is a written report (3000 – 4000 words) on an area of the specification devised by the student. The NEA will assess the student's ability of the enquiry process. As the investigation is an independent study, students will be expected to carry out their own data collection during the 2020 Summer holidays, before having lessons dedicated to their NEAs during the 2020 Autumn Term.

The six areas the students will be assessed on are:

1. Planning purpose and introduction
2. Data, information collection methods and sampling framework
3. Data presentation techniques
4. Data analysis and explanation
5. Conclusions and investigation evaluation
6. Overall quality and communication of written work

These trips are a critical part of the A Level Geography course, with the investigations undertaken being assessed as their coursework for the "Investigative Geography" unit. The independent study allows students to develop a wide range of skills and abilities in:

- The structure and enquiry process
- Extended writing
- Innovation in investigating and presenting data
- Self-directed study
- Research techniques
- Making synoptic links between the real world, geographical theory, the learners' own research and the specification

Furthermore, universities look favourably on applicants who have experienced field trip situations, as it not only promotes independence and maturity; it also demonstrates skills like collaborative learning and critical thinking.

As the report counts towards their qualification, there is limited help available from their teachers to complete their report, as outlined below:

What the teacher can help with:

- Provide the location and theme for the student's investigation as well as equipment
- Advise the student on health and safety, political and ethical considerations of the project
- Discuss the student's ideas for titles
- Confirm the student's title meets the requirement of the NEA
- Filling in the paperwork
- Promote referencing and using a bibliography
- Store work once it is completed

What the teacher cannot help with:

- Choosing the student's title
- Giving feedback and guidance on how to improve the student's work to meet the criteria – no templates or model answers can be given
- Cannot review or mark draft work
- Cannot give feedback and guidance on errors or omissions which limits the student from using their own initiative
- Return work after it has been submitted and marked at school
- Intervene to improve the presentation or quality of the work
- Provide the student with primary and/or secondary data not collected by them individually or as a class

The field trips

The OCR specification states:

“Fieldwork is required to be undertaken for at least four days throughout the A Level course, including in relation to processes in both physical and human geography”.

As four days of fieldwork are required to be signed off by the School to the exam board, we will be using two field trips to help prepare them for the data collection work they will need to conduct for their NEAs over the Summer holidays.

The trip to Reading on **Friday 22nd November** will be used to practice a range of human geography data collection techniques, whereas the trip to Eastbourne on the 2nd - 3rd April 2020 will allow your son/daughter to practice physical geography data collection techniques.

Reading - 22nd November 2019

Your son/daughter will need to register as normal on Friday morning and meet me in the main reception at 09:00, ready to walk to the train station. We will travel by train leaving Maidenhead train station at 09:36 and returning on the 15:33 train, before walking back to school for buses. Please could your son/daughter bring a packed lunch with them or some money to get something while in Reading. Please remember that nuts and nut products are not permitted.

Eastbourne - 2 & 3 April 2020

The fieldwork conducted for the students' NEA must be based on an area of the specification and the physical geography element we study is coastlines which is why we will be visiting Eastbourne. We will travel by train leaving Maidenhead train station on Thursday 2 April at 08:45, therefore please could I ask your son/daughter meets us at 08:30 at the station. We will depart from Eastbourne on Friday 3 April at 13:25 and will be back at Maidenhead train station at 16:25 for you to meet your son/daughter.

The cost of the two trips is £190.00 and in order to confirm our places we would be grateful if you could pay this by **Friday 8 November**. Please pay online by following the link from our website, www.clairescourt.com. Please note payments will only be refunded in exceptional circumstances.

These are a highly constructive and essential field trips for our geographers and I am sure they will gain full value from them.

Yours sincerely

**SARAH CLIFFORD**

Subject Leader for Sixth Form Geography

**STEPHANIE ROGERS**

Head of Sixth Form

CLAIRES COURT SIXTH FORM - A Level Field Trips to Reading and Eastbourne

I consent to my son/daughter taking part in the above trip

I have paid the £190.00 online

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____

PUPIL'S NAME _____ DATE _____

Please return this slip to School by Friday 8 November 2019