

NATIONALS IN A NUTSHELL

The National Parent Forum of Scotland Summary of Geography National 5

GEOGRAPHY
SOCIAL STUDIES

NATIONAL
5

3
UNITS

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENTS
HUMAN ENVIRONMENTS
GLOBAL ISSUES

+
COURSE
ASSESSMENT

COURSE ASSESSMENT: ASSIGNMENT + QUESTION PAPER

What skills will my child develop?

- detailed knowledge and understanding of our changing world and its human and physical processes
- a range of geographical skills, techniques and experiences including fieldwork and practical activities
- detailed understanding of spatial relationships and of the changing world in a balanced, critical and sympathetic way
- a geographical perspective on environmental and social issues
- an open mind and respect for other values, beliefs and cultures
- an interest in, and concern for, the environment, leading to sustainable development and environmental stewardship
- using, interpreting and explaining a range of geographical information and geographical phenomena including maps and data
- the ability to investigate, research, critically evaluate and communicate information and findings
- an awareness of geographical information systems (eg using ICT)



WHAT WILL MY CHILD EXPERIENCE DURING THE COURSE?

- Active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations, reflecting on learning, setting targets, evaluating progress
- A blend of classroom approaches including practical and experiential learning through fieldwork; group work; whole class learning and teaching; discussion and debate; outdoor learning
- Collaborative learning: learners can work in groups and with others locally, nationally and internationally; inter-curricular projects with the sciences and other social studies
- Space for personalisation and choice: learners may choose their Assignment topic and research methodology, including field work
- Applying learning
- Embedding literacy and numeracy skills: researching and presenting information; evaluating; communicating.

ASSESSMENT

- To gain National 5, learners must pass all Units and the Course Assessment (Assignment and Question Paper)
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit assessment (or 'evidence of learning') might include more in-depth digital or oral presentations, recorded DVD/video, written work, podcasts, wall displays. A portfolio of work may be prepared
- The Course Assessment consists of an Assignment and a Question Paper (exam marked by the SQA). The Assignment will involve learners in selecting, researching and presenting findings on an issue of their choice, applying their knowledge and understanding. It will be written up under timed conditions (one hour). The Course Assessment is marked by the SQA and is graded A to D.

ACTIVE LEARNING IN THE CLASSROOM



We organised a formal debate, working with a Modern Studies class. We divided into two teams, one for the motion and one against. Our issue was "This house believes

that wind farms are a blot on the landscape of Scotland". Each team had to undertake research on the internet and in the media, to see what the arguments were in support of the motion and against the motion. We were all given the task of researching one argument for our team, supported by evidence. This was tricky! To help us organise our arguments, we invited two guest speakers in, both local elected politicians, who had opposing views on the debate topic. The key argument was about having sustainable energy sources versus the look of wind farms. The debate was held in front of sixth year pupils, who voted on the winners. It was a very heated debate and those supporting wind farms won, but not by much.



National 5 progresses onto Higher Geography

For more detailed course information:

SQA: Geography National 5: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45706.html

Education Scotland: www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nationalqualifications/index.asp

Curriculum for Excellence Key Terms and Features Factfile:

www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CfEFactfileOverview_tcm4-665983.pdf



the National Parent
Forum of Scotland

www.parentforumscotland.org

enquiries@parentforumscotland.org

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