

Geography homework policy

1a) Rationale for KS3 homework:

The geography department sets homework at KS3 for a variety of reasons including:

- To consolidate and reinforce core knowledge for topics being studied in lesson
- To extend students' knowledge and understanding of topics by applying content from lessons to real world and topical scenarios; thus, making geography relevant
- To develop the core skills of independence and responsibility for learning
- To practise reading and comprehension skills

1b) Rationale for GCSE homework:

The geography department sets homework at GCSE for a variety of reasons including:

- To enable students to apply knowledge and understanding from lesson content to exam questions. This is important as it enables students to practice exam technique and using their knowledge accurately in exam questions
- To enable teachers to identify misconceptions and/or gaps in knowledge
- To secure knowledge and understanding of topics through revisiting and revising earlier parts of the course
- To reinforce and consolidate the core knowledge needed for topics studied
- To develop the core skills of independence and responsibility for learning

2a. KS3 tasks / activities:

Year 7:

- Geography in the news task (3 across year)
- Google quizzes
- Core knowledge revision
- Optional creative task
- Continents and countries Google quiz (inter-house competition)

Year 8:

- Geography in the news task (3 across year)
- Google quizzes
- Core knowledge revision
- Optional creative task
- Continents and countries Google quiz (inter-house competition)

Year 9:

- Geography in the news task (3 across year)
- Google quizzes
- Core knowledge revision
- Optional creative task
- Continents and countries Google quiz (inter-house competition)

2b. GCSE tasks / activities:

- Homework booklet focusing on exam question practice issued at start of course
- Google quizzes (2-3 set per topic area)
- Core knowledge revision
- Continents and countries Google quiz (inter-house competition)

3. Unsticking:

KS3:

- Videos to help students access articles and support completion
- Departmental drop-in session for support – run on a Friday lunchtime by geography captain
- Students encouraged to contact staff via email / Google classroom when they have questions
- Use core knowledge booklets (issued at the start of year) to check for answers they are unsure on
- When completing Google quizzes, students are encouraged to use their core knowledge booklets rather than guess answers they are not sure on

GCSE:

- Department website (<https://sites.google.com/alf.education/ahs-geography/home>) contains unit resources which can be used to support with completion of homework. During 2025-26, the website will be further developed to support homework (e.g. model answers, videos, modelling of how to approach answers)
- Links to examples / explanations (e.g. how to structure an answer) – posted on Google classroom alongside homework tasks
- You-tube playlist of videos (not AHS created) included in homework booklet
- Students encouraged to contact staff via email / Google classroom when they have questions
- Use core knowledge booklets (issued at the start of year) to check for answers they are unsure on
- When completing Google quizzes, students are encouraged to use their core knowledge booklets rather than guess answers they are not sure on. This is particularly important for core knowledge quizzes where students are required to achieve at least 60%.
- Links to revision guide and cool geography website in homework booklets
- Use class notes, case study booklets and uploaded lesson resources on the department website (<https://sites.google.com/alf.education/ahs-geography/home>) (particularly if absent) to support with homework completion.

4. Homework length:

KS3:

- Quizzes – 10-15 minutes per Google quiz
- CK revision - 15 minutes and 10-15 minutes on Google quiz
- Geography in the news – 30 minutes once a topic
- Optional – can be completed in pairs or individually over a period of 4 weeks

GCSE:

- Homework booklets
- Shorter style questions - 3-5 minutes
- Longer style questions - 10-15 minutes
- Quizzes – 10/15 minutes per Google quiz
- Core knowledge revision – at least 30 minutes per week

5. Feedback

- Google quizzes – computer will mark but teachers will double check and re-issue scores after deadline
- KS3 geography in the news – computer will mark but teachers will double check longer questions and above and beyond sections. Teacher led review and identification of misconceptions in lesson after deadline
- GCSE homework booklets – shorter style questions – self-marked with teacher led guidance / longer style questions – teacher marked using whole class feedback or individual feedback

6. Homework plan

KS3:

- Homework set with 1 week deadline (apart from optional task)
- Homework timetabled for year with all work being set in the same week for all classes across a year group and due the following week
- Please note: There may be times when homework has to be set a week later/earlier than timetable due to bank holidays, timetabling and students being removed from lessons for whole school events
- Non completion of homework: at the teacher discretion, students will be given one short extension after the initial deadline (non-completion of homework recorded on SIMS and followed up with 'negative SIMS' event for repeated failure to complete). If homework is not completed by this time, a department detention will be held. Failure to attend lunchtime detention will result in an after-school detention being issued
- Absentees encouraged to complete work set by using SIMS and Google classroom
- Poor completion of homework: students will be kept in to improve work or complete a paper copy of the Google quiz using core knowledge booklet to support. Recorded on SIMS.

GCSE:

- Homework is not timetabled for the year, but students will consistently be set either quizzes, core knowledge revision or exam questions from their booklet
- Non completion of homework: at the teacher discretion, students may be given one short extension after the initial deadline (non-completion of homework recorded on SIMS and followed up with 'yellow' event for repeated failure to complete). If homework is not completed by this time, a teacher detention will be held. Failure to attend lunchtime detention will result in an after-school detention being issued
- Absentees strongly encouraged to complete work set by using SIMS and Google classroom
- Poor completion of homework: students will be kept in to improve work or complete a paper copy of the Google quiz using core knowledge booklet to support. Recorded on SIMS.

7. Core knowledge:

- Paper booklets issued to students at the start of the academic year (electronic versions available on Google classroom, school website and department website)
- Parents can test core knowledge easily using booklets and are encouraged to do so for core knowledge revision homework There is an expectation that students will perform well on core knowledge Google quizzes as they are encouraged to revise, be tested where possible at home, and then complete a Google quiz (referring to core knowledge booklet if they wish). It is not acceptable to write 'IDK' as an answer when core knowledge booklets can be used for support