

Preparing our pupils to be successful in their exams

1. Geography expert and exam ninja.

When we teach pupils geography we are aiming for them to become geography experts. We plan and teach the content of topics as guided by the KS3 National Curriculum, what is relevant and interesting for our pupils or the GCSE specification. With the demands of the new GCSE specifications we are also embedding literacy and numeracy skills within the content so that pupils experience them as they would in an exam and so they learn them from a geography stance rather than science or maths.

2. Effective decision makers.

Pupils must be effective decision makers in exams in order to be successful. As teachers we need to support them by providing pupils with positive practice experiences that are clear, structured and modelled. When we give pupils time to practise thinking, talking and writing like a geographer we need to ensure that we are sharing not just techniques but also live models of this. If we were to learn to play a sport and the coach taught us the content, spoke us through a popular and successful technique and then let us have a go we would not be as successful as if the coach taught us the content and modelled the technique whilst talking us through what they were thinking of moving or looking at next. It is this style of modelling that we need to perform live in order to allow pupils to see us being the masters of our subject and also to share our thought process for them to learn from.