

Margam Discovery Centre

FSC Margam Discovery Centre
Margam Park
Port Talbot
SA13 2UA

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AQA A Level Geography Course Options



Margam Discovery centre is set in 600 acres of deer park, surrounded by a nearby diversity of habitats, including woodlands, streams, sand dunes, rocky shores and grasslands. The building, an example of sustainable design, has good road and rail links making Margam ideal for short courses. For longer courses, the surrounding area has an unrivalled range of natural environments to investigate. These include the Kenfig NNR dune system, South Wales Heritage Coastline, Gower Peninsula, Swansea, Cardiff and Brecon Beacon National Park all a short drive away.

Tuition is delivered by talented teachers, with not only an expert knowledge of their subject and field work locations, but a passion for the subject being taught. Our education team are fully DBS checked, and undergo a regular and rigorous training process. All tutors have received training in first aid and water safety.

Course options listed here can be selected to put together a programme designed to meet the requirements of your specification. However, if you need something that is not catered for in the field work investigations, please contact us to discuss possible alternatives.

Please visit

<http://www.field-studies-council.org/centres/margamdiscoverycentre.aspx>

for more information, options for KS2, KS3, GCSE and A level and virtual tour of the Margam Discovery Centre



Our AQA courses all aim to prepare students for Unit 2, the Geographical Skills AS Paper (GEOG2) and/or the optional Unit 4A, the Geographical Fieldwork Investigation Paper, as well as link with the content from other units.

Content	Specification links & additional information	Possible half day
<p>Rivers – Processes & Features</p> <p>An investigation on changing channel characteristics with distance downstream. All students will develop river fieldwork skills, use different methods to collect data and observe different river landforms. Data will be collated and analysed by students using a variety of presentation techniques (including scatter graphs) and statistical techniques (Spearman’s Rank). This study will explicitly aim to prepare students for the AS Geographical Skills Paper (Geog 2).</p>	<p>Links to: Unit 1, Physical and Human Geography (core physical section – Rivers, Floods and Management)</p> <p>Field site(s): River Ogmore</p> <p>Transport Required</p>	No
<p>Rivers - Flooding</p> <p>Students assess the flood risk in the Ogmore drainage basin, relating elements of the water cycle (such as infiltration) to river discharge and the likely storm hydrograph on a river. Infiltration, interception and storm run-off experiments are related to physical and human factors affecting flooding in the Ogmore Valley. Students will also visit Bridgend as a case study example of river flooding, where they will consider the impacts of flooding and observe what can be done to manage a river where flooding is likely. Activities include: mapping flood risk and assessing flood defences.</p>	<p>Links to: Unit 1, Physical and Human Geography (core physical section – Rivers, Floods and Management)</p> <p>Field site(s): River Ogmore</p> <p>Transport Required</p>	No
<p>Rivers - Flooding</p> <p>Students assess the flood risk in Port Talbot in the Afan catchment, as a short case study. Activities include mapping the flood defences and flood risk analysis. Fieldwork takes place after analysing Environment Agency secondary data during the classroom session.</p>	<p>Links to: Unit 1, Physical and Human Geography (core physical section – Rivers, Floods and Management)</p> <p>Field site(s): River Afan, Port Talbot</p> <p>Transport Required</p>	Yes
<p>Coastal Environments</p> <p>Students undertake a fieldwork investigation to assess the impact of coastal processes (with particular reference to wave type and longshore drift) on beach shape and dimensions and observe a number of coastal landforms. They will also assess different coastal management strategies using cost benefit analysis by students, in order to compare hard and soft engineering structures.</p>	<p>Links to: Unit 1, Physical & Human Geography (Coastal Environments)</p> <p>Field site(s): Newton and Porthcawl</p> <p>Transport Required</p>	Yes
<p>Population Change</p> <p>Students will establish the differences in characteristics between two Human Environments, the inner city and suburban areas of Swansea. Fieldwork techniques will include assessments of service provision, environmental quality assessment, housing type, age of vehicles and use of secondary Census data to compare the areas. A visit to examine changes in the CBD can also be done to examine how the demands of the population have changed.</p>	<p>Links to: Unit 1, Physical & Human Geography (Population Change)</p> <p>Field site(s): Swansea</p> <p>Transport required</p>	No
<p>Energy Issues</p> <p>Students will examine various sustainable energy sources and look at those at the centre, including solar and biomass. Students will also visit a local wind farm and look at how and why the site was chosen, also looking at impacts on the area. Follow up will include the technology and energy conservation.</p>	<p>Links to: Unit 1, Physical & Human Geography (Energy Issues)</p> <p>Field site(s): Glyncorrwg</p>	Yes

<p>Sand Dune Ecosystems</p> <p>Students carry out an investigation across a sand dune ecosystem; transect sampling to collect data on vegetation, soil and micro-climate. Data are then used to explore how the environment is changing over time. An examination of the management of the dunes will also be carried out. Data presentation and analysis skills will be developed during this follow up, preparing students for the Geographical Fieldwork Investigations Paper at A2 (although the study can also be used for the GEOG2 paper).</p>	<p>Links to: Unit 3, Contemporary Geographical Issues (Ecosystems: Change and Challenge)</p> <p>Field site(s): Kenfig NNR</p> <p>Transport Required</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Woodlands – Climax Communities</p> <p>This study will explore a deciduous and coniferous woodland within the Margam Country Park, giving students the opportunity to understand the characteristics of vegetation and soil in a climatic climax and the diversity which exists within this environment.</p>	<p>Links to: Unit 3, Contemporary Geographical Issues (Ecosystems: Change and Challenge)</p> <p>Field site(s): Margam Country Park</p> <p>No Transport required</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Retailing and Urban Decline</p> <p>Students will investigate the CBD of Swansea to see if it is in decline and the changes on retail. This will involve a range of techniques including GOAD analysis and Clone Town Analysis. Students will also visit Fforestfach out of town shopping centre to see how this may have impacted the CBD of Swansea. Students will examine if the CBD has redeveloped to attract people back to the city. This study extends on the population study at AS level and would be suitable for the GEOG4 examination.</p>	<p>Links to: Unit 3, Contemporary Geographical Issues (World Cities)</p> <p>Field site(s): Swansea & Fforestfach</p> <p>Transport required</p>	<p>Yes (if only visiting one site)</p>

What is included in the fee?

- Up to 10 hours of tuition a day
- Expert tuition, from fully trained staff
- Full board accommodation, in en suite room. Catering includes Cooked breakfast, picnic lunch, homemade cakes and evening meal.
- Use of facilities including workrooms, recreational space, ICT and centre grounds
- Established health and safety procedures and 24 hour emergency cover
- Access to specialist equipment and resources
- Support before and following the course

Adventurous activities

Taster sessions in Canoeing, Kayaking and mountain biking are possible, through local and accredited outdoor providers. These activities may help develop team building, personal skills and environmental understanding as well as give students a different view of the landscape and its unique environments. An option to go to Go Ape can also be organised.



To book a course, simply:

1. Choose the time of the year you would like to attend
2. Contact us at Margam by e-mail at enquiries.mp@field-studies-council.org or by phone 01639 895636 to check availability and prices.

Quality Badge awarded by



External Recognition of Quality

Margam Discovery Centre has been awarded the Quality Badge by The Council for Learning Outside the Classroom. The badge is awarded to organisations that have demonstrated that they consistently deliver high quality teaching and learning experiences and manage risk effectively.

This means that you will have to complete less paperwork when visiting our centre