

CPD REVIEW

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COME RAIN OR SHINE

(UNIVERSITY OF READING & THE ROYAL METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY ON FUTURE LEARN)

My interest in this course was sparked for two main reasons. Firstly, after studying a solely Human Geography degree, I felt that improving my Physical Geography subject knowledge was vital in my training year; and secondly, at the announcement of lockdown I had just started to teach a Year 7 Weather and Climate Unit at school.

The course is 3 weeks long and contains approximately 3 hours of content each week. I highly recommend watching the practical demonstrations also, this has given me some great fieldwork ideas for when we go back to school!

As can be seen below, the course can be applied to the subject knowledge required by teachers of Key stages 3-5.

The course is split into the following sections:

Week 1: High- and low-pressure systems, the differences between weather and climate, depressions and anticyclones.

Week 2: Weather systems, air masses, types of rain, measuring the weather.

Week 3: global controls on weather, global atmospheric circulation, monsoons, cyclones, El Nino/La Nina.

Key thoughts:

Firstly, this course offers some fantastic ideas for practical activities that could be used with students. Stay around to watch the videos that are used on the course.

Definitely make use of the associated teaching resources (remember to download the answers as well and check any work that you do before teaching to students!) My personal favourite has got to be MetLink's KS4 air masses resources, available here: <https://www.metlink.org/secondary/key-stage-4/>.

To broaden the knowledge from the course even further, I read the GA's article in Teaching Geography titled "Investigating the microclimate of school grounds" (Geoff Jenkins, Autumn 2016 Edition). If you are looking to conduct fieldwork in your school grounds this is a must read!

The course can be found from the following link: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/come-rain-or-shine> and is free to access. In order to get the certificate for course completion you do have to pay.

