

GEOGRAPHY

Exam Board: AQA



Aims of the Course

Geography as a subject enables students to;

- Address and attempt to understand topical issues.
- Foster an understanding of the environment and its processes.
- Develop awareness of cultural diversity and geographical variations relevant to business and good citizenship.
- Analyse primary and secondary information, paralleling the needs of every day employment.
- Be well prepared for the challenges of the information society in an increasingly globalised economy.
- Use quantitative methods and ICT effectively.

Types of Learning Experience:

Geography students at A level will encounter a wide variety of learning styles with increasing emphasis on the development of independent learning skills. They will carry out local fieldwork, will research topics in small groups and give presentations to the class as well as traditional classroom based teaching. Extracts from TV programmes and soft ware programmes are also used to enhance learning.

Reading widely is encouraged at A level, using journals, magazines and text books. Daily and weekend newspapers are excellent sources of current data and case studies. Students are encouraged to keep a “scrap book” file of cuttings, notes from TV documentaries that they watch to incorporate into their written work.

Residential fieldwork will deepen the students experience and understanding in preparation for the course and previous fieldwork opportunities have included Iceland and Sicily. In Year 12, students are taken on a three-day residential visit to the Dorset coast to learn coastal case studies, but also to collect data for the report, which is worth 20% of the A level.

Day visits are also arranged to a London university to work with the wave tank and Chichester harbour when studying coastal processes. Other visits to local universities for revision conferences are also arranged.

Link Subjects:

Geography can be taken with all other subjects being a social science as it sits in the middle of the academic continuum but particularly with Economics, Business studies, ICT, Sociology.

Progressing to Higher Education:

Geography is widely recognised as a subject in its own right and also one that links with others comfortably for the modern world of work, such as Economics, Architecture and Urban Planning, Environmental science, ICT, Tourism and Sports science.

Careers:

Geography provides you with many relevant skills that are required in the world of work; Commerce, Business, Management and Finance, Law, Education, Geographical Information systems, HM Services, Sports and Recreational management, Surveying, Planning, Engineering, Civil service, Meteorology, Tourism and even Teaching!

Unit 1: Physical Geography

Topic list

- Water & Carbon cycles
- Coastal systems and landscapes
- Hazards

Assessment: Structured short and extended questions. Externally assessed: Written paper (2.5 hours)

Weighting: 40% A Level marks.

Unit 2: Human Geography

Topic List

- Global systems and global governance
- Changing Places
- Contemporary Urban Environments

Assessment: Structured short and extended questions. Externally assessed: Written paper (2.5 hours)

Weighting: 40% A Level marks.

Unit 3: Geography Fieldwork Investigation

Assessment:

Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field (Field Trip—location to be confirmed).

The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.

Internally assessed, but moderated externally by AQA
3,000 — 4,000 words

Weighting: 20% of total A Level marks

Entry requirements:

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE including English and Maths. Geography GCSE grade 4 or above is required.