Geography A Level

Course Description:

An exciting opportunity to explore the relationships between people and their environment on a variety of different scales from local to global studies. Students will develop knowledge and understanding of geographical issues using a variety of different geographical skills. A level Geography enables you to appreciate the dynamic nature of the subject; how places, environments and issues change and how people respond to those changes.

Qualifications Required:

Minimum entry requirements apply. Grade 5 in Geography. Grade 5 in English and Maths strongly advisable.

Aims of the Course:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of places, environments, concepts, processes, interactions and change, at a variety of scales
- Apply knowledge and understanding in different contexts to interpret, analyse and evaluate geographical information and issues
- Use a variety of relevant quantitative, qualitative and fieldwork skills to investigate geographical questions and issues, interpret, analyse and evaluate data and evidence, and construct arguments and draw conclusions

Future Prospects:

You can progress on to:
Geography students learn many of the skills most sought after by employers. Analysis of facts, figures, ideas and perspectives which supports decision making in the workplace. Geography students excel at working in a team and have strong communication and numeracy skills. They therefore have a good grounding for further education at degree level or future careers. Geography degree courses are offered at almost every university, with the possibility to specialise in Human, Physical or Environmental Geography.

A wide range of careers including geologist, surveying, architect, town planning, cartography, environmental consultant, civil engineering, environmental health, horticulture, marketing, publishing, aviation, transport and communication to name a few. Many A level Geographers have entered careers in accountancy and law. Geography is a rigorous A Level and is recognised as such by universities and employers alike.

Student Feedback:

‘Geography is an interesting and enjoyable A-level subject covering a range of physical and human topics.’
‘Studying Geography will challenge you and encourage you to develop your critical thinking through theory and fieldwork opportunities.’

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Features of the Course:

- Two linear examinations in Year 13.
- Unit 1 and 2 are examinations, both worth 40% of the overall grade. These units consist of a range of human and physical topics.
- Question types: short answer, questions based upon data and resources and longer essay questions.
- Unit 3 requires students to carry out an individual fieldwork investigation which must include data collected in the field, 3,000–4,000 words in length. The investigation is worth 20% of the A-level and is marked by teachers and then moderated by the examination board.

A Level Units

Component 1 – Physical Geography
Content Overview:
Section A: Water and carbon cycles
Section B: Coastal systems and landscapes
Section C: Hazards

Component 2 – Human geography
Content Overview:
Section A: Global systems and global governance
Section B: Changing places
Section C: Contemporary urban environments

Component 3 – Geographical Investigation
Content Overview:
Students complete an individual fieldwork investigation. Students will use data collection methods to explore Geography theory. This is based upon a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.

Methods of Assessment:

Component 1 – 2 ½ hour written exam, 40% of A Level.
Component 2 – 2 ½ hour written exam, 40% of A Level.
Component 3 – 3,000-4,000 words, 20% of A Level. Marked by teachers and moderated by the exam board.