

Geography A Level

Course Description:

This flexible course gives you the opportunity to engage with the relationship of human populations to each other over space and time, and to study the relationship between human populations with their physical environment at a variety of scales from the local to the global. Key themes include Coasts, Hazards, Contemporary Urban Environments and Global Systems and Governance. You will also be encouraged to consider your own role in relation to themes and issues being studied and choose between specialised content, including a dedicated fieldwork option for the NEA.

Qualifications Required:

Grade 5 in GCSE Geography if studied. 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 degree courses, with the possibility to specialise in Human Geography, Physical Geography or Environmental Sciences.

A wide range of careers including geologist, surveyor, architect, town planner, cartographer, environmental consultant and teacher.

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: multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response, extended prose.
- Unit 3 requires students to carry out an individual 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 and people and the environment

Content Overview:

Section A: Water and carbon cycles

Section B: Coastal systems and landscapes

Section C: Hazards

Component 2 – Human geography and Geography fieldwork investigation

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 investigation which must include data collected in the field.

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.

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.