

Geography

Qualifications

Exam board: Edexcel Geography A Level

End of Year 13 - A Level (two year course only)

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 passes at grade 5 or higher (including English and Maths). A minimum of a grade 6 in Geography is recommended . A grade 5 will be considered with a strong performance in the exam.

Skills Required

First and foremost geographers have an interest in, and a curiosity about, the world around them – places, people, environments and the interactions between them. Students should take an active interest in the news, current affairs, and local and global issues.

Students need to be able to identify relevant questions for study and have the research and enquiry skills to find and make sense of the answers. This involves: the use of practical fieldwork skills and data handling; research from books and internet sources; and the interpretation of statistical and spatial data. The ability to synthesise and evaluate information from a variety of sources is essential and students must be able to communicate clearly in writing and through graphical methods.

Course Outline

The course offers an issues-based approach to studying geography, enabling students to explore and evaluate contemporary geographical questions and issues such as the consequences of globalisation, responses to hazards, water insecurity and climate change. Students will be encouraged to engage critically with real world issues and places, and to apply their geographical knowledge, theory and skills to the world around them. Students will grow as independent thinkers and as informed and engaged citizens, who understand the role and importance of geography as one of the key disciplines relevant to understanding the world's changing peoples, places and environments.

Students will undertake an individual geographical investigation which can be based on any aspect of the course content and this accounts for 20% of the final A level grade. Fieldwork is central to this aspect of the course and there is a requirement to complete at least four days of fieldwork through the course. A further 20% of the marks come from a synoptic investigation that gives students the opportunity to apply their knowledge, understanding and skills to a geographical issue within a particular place-based context.

Student Testimony

"The study of geography is interesting, relevant and rewarding."

"Geography has inspired me to go on to do a degree. Geography is the future."

"This subject has challenged my learning in a way that helps me to understand the world around me."

Career Paths & Degree Courses

Geography is widely seen as a valuable and versatile subject because of the range of skills it develops. University geography courses are immensely varied with the opportunity to specialise in areas from mountain glaciers to sea bed morphology and everything in between. Geography is seen as a bridging discipline crossing the arts/sciences divide and the range of courses available reflects this.

It is also regarded as a useful facilitating subject for those wishing to study other courses at university and can lead to an array of different careers some of which are directly linked (e.g. conservation, weather forecasting, surveying, international relations) and others which make use of transferable skills that geographers offer (e.g. marketing, finance, research, civil engineering).

Year 12	Year 13
Physical topics: Tectonic processes and hazards Coastal landscapes and change	Physical topics: Water cycle and water insecurity Carbon cycle and energy security
Human topics: Globalisation Shaping places	Human topics: Superpowers Global development and connections
AS - one year course only 2 x 1 hour 45 minutes exams at the end of Year 12	A Level - two year course only 3 exams at the end of Year 13 (80%) Plus a 3000 - 4000 word fieldwork investigation (20%)