

GEOGRAPHY

A-level Geography will appeal to you if you want to find out how this planet works, if you are interested in global issues such as population growth and health issues and if you want to study a subject that is relevant to your life and experiences. If you enjoy doing your own independent research, if you relish doing practical work outdoors and if you find exploring and finding out about current events and new places stimulating, this course is the one for you!

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is by the examinations outlined below.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You do not need to have studied the subject at GCSE in order to take AS or A-level Geography, but you should have GCSE Mathematics (Grade C or above).

LINKS WITH OTHER SUBJECTS

Geography links well with the sciences, economics, languages and most other subjects.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

With AS or A-level Geography you will have access to a wide range of possible career and higher education opportunities. You will gain skills that are in great demand by employers and universities, e.g. numeracy, literacy, working with computers, research, presentation skills and working independently.

Geography combines well with other subjects. With sciences you can apply for courses like medicine, engineering, environmental sciences, geology and oceanography. With English, History or Economics you can try for law, politics and philosophy. Other courses combine Geography with languages.

COURSE CONTENT

Students have to study both the physical and human topics for AS and A2. Field work is assessed at both AS and A2.

The AS Units are:

Unit 1: Physical And Human Geography

Core Physical Section: Rivers, floods and management
Physical Options: Cold Environments, Coastal Environments and Hot Desert Environments. At least one must be studied.

Core Human Section: Global Population Change
Human Options: Health Issues, Food Supply Issues and Energy issues. At least one must be studied.

Examination Paper: 2 hours; 70% of the AS marks with structured short and extended questions.

Unit 2: Applied Geography

This will develop and use a variety of skills which are both taught within the topics covered, and on a residential field trip to Yorkshire.

Examination Paper: 1 hour with two questions — one testing general skills and one on the student's own fieldwork. 30% of the AS marks.

The A2 Units are:

Unit 3:

The Physical Options Are:

Weather and Climate and Associated Hazards, Plate Tectonics and Associated Hazards, Ecosystems: Change and Challenge. At least one must be studied.

The Human Options Are:

World cities — evolution or revolution?, Development and Globalisation, Contemporary Conflicts and Challenges. At least one must be studied. Students must study at least three of the six sections, with at least one human and one physical option.

Examination Paper: 2 hours 30 Minutes with short answer questions plus extended questions and essays.

Unit 4: Geography Fieldwork Investigation

This must be linked to the specification and based on one clear hypothesis. ICT should be used along with internet research as well as first hand collection of primary data. Students will write up one topic from the field trip after their AS examinations and use this as the basis for their answers in the examination. The examination will last 1 hour 30 minutes with short and extended questions.