

Geography



Information for
students and parents

GEOGRAPHY

How do you prepare for careers which don't exist yet and ensure you have skills to deal with technologies which are not yet invented? Whether you are taking subjects in the Humanities or Sciences, A-level Geography adds breadth and global perspective to your studies. If you enjoy independent research and want to develop written, numerical and investigative skills, if you relish doing practical work outdoors and if you find exploring current events and new places stimulating, Geography is for you!

CONTENT

Exam Board: OCR

We follow the OCR A-level Specification. All units are examined, except for 'Investigative Geography' of the A-level specification which is an Independent coursework investigation.

TOPICS COVERED

Year 1

Glaciated Landscapes
Earth's Life Support Systems
Changing Spaces, Making Places
Hazardous Earth

Year 2

Independent Investigation
Global Connections
Power and Borders
Exploring Oceans

FIELDWORK

Fieldwork is a regular feature of the A-level Geography course and you will be required to do least four compulsory days. There will be lots of opportunities, including an annual residential in Lower 6 and bi-annual overseas trips to locations such as Iceland and Costa Rica. Expect a number of day trips including visits to the Jurassic Coast, Bristol University, Plymouth University for the Geohazards Conference and regular lectures offered by the Geographical Association.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You do not need to have studied the subject at GCSE in order to take A-level Geography, but you should have GCSE Mathematics (Grade 6 or above).

LINKS WITH OTHER SUBJECTS

Geography bridges the Arts and Sciences and links with almost any combination of subjects including the Sciences, Economics, Languages and History.

HIGHER EDUCATION & CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

A-level Geography is identified by the Russell Group as one of eight facilitating subjects which provide the best grounding for pursuing a wide range of career and Higher Education opportunities. In Geography you will gain transferable skills that are in great demand by employers and universities, e.g. numeracy, literacy, ICT, research, presentation skills and the ability to work independently. Geography can give breadth and perspective to your studies. Alongside sciences you can apply for courses like Medicine, Engineering, Architecture and Geology. With English, History, Economics or Languages you can try for courses such as Law or Politics. Almost any course or career choice is open to you with A-level Geography as one of your options.

A-LEVEL GEOGRAPHY

Unit 1: Landscape Systems (24%) - 1 hour 30 minutes

Glaciated Landscapes

Factors affecting landscapes; Landform development; Influence of climate change; Impact of human activity.

Earth's Life Support Systems

Importance of water and carbon to life on earth; Case studies of Tropical Rainforest and Arctic Tundra; Change over time; Links and interdependence between the cycles; The impact of climate change on stores and fluxes.

Unit 2: Changing Spaces; Making Places (24%) - 1 hour 30 minutes

Two contrasting places at a local scale; How place is understood and represented; Economic change and social inequality; with players involved; Place making processes.

Global Connections

An increasingly interconnected world with patterns, unequal flows, challenges and geopolitics, studied through:

- Global Systems: Option B – Global Migration
- Global Governance: Option D – Power and Borders

Unit 3: Geographical debates: (32%) - 2 hours 30 minutes

- Exploring oceans
- Hazardous Earth

Unit 4: Investigative Geography (20%)

Non-examined assessment, which is an independent geographical investigation conducted by each candidate based on primary and secondary data.



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