

A Level Geography



Why this subject?

Geography is a relevant, dynamic and academically rigorous subject that helps you to make sense of the world around you. At A level a variety of topics are studied across both human and physical geography that help you to engage critically with some of the most pressing challenges facing the world today. As well as the exciting topic content, you will also develop a range geographical skills; from text and creative material to fieldwork and spatial or 'big data', you will gain a variety of transferable skills and attributes that prepare you for university or the world of work. Geography also works well with other subjects, complementing the arts, sciences and humanities alike.

Course Outline

Year 12

Content – Knowledge and skills will focus on four topic areas, exploring the workings of people, places and the environment globally and here in the UK:

- Tectonic Processes and Hazards
- Coastal Landscapes and Change
- Globalisation
- Regenerating Places

Fieldwork – In the summer term, students will complete a residential fieldwork course that will equip them to access the skills and knowledge to complete their own independent investigation.

Year 13

Content – Synoptic knowledge and skills are developed across four topic areas, exploring our management of natural resources and the global governance of our inter-connected world:

- The Water Cycles and Water Insecurity
- The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security
- Superpowers
- Health, Human Rights and Intervention

Coursework – Students will complete an independent investigation that will be worth 20% of their overall grade.



Key Information

Exam Board	Edexcel
Qualification Type	A Level
Entry Requirements	A Level Pathway. Level 6 in Geography GCSE; Level 6 in Maths/ English recommended.
Head of Department	Mr Bouquet

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Assessment Outline

Exams 80%:

Paper 1 – Physical Geography (30%)

2h 15m exam paper worth 105 marks, focussing on the four “physical” topics covered in Year 12 and 13. Questions cover geographical skills, interpretation of resources, short open-responses and extended writing.

Paper 2 – Human Geography (30%)

2h 15m exam paper worth 105 marks, focussing on the four “human” topics covered in Year 12 and 13. Questions cover geographical skills, interpretation of resources, short open-responses and extended writing.

Paper 3 – Synoptic Investigation (20%)

2h 15m exam paper worth 70 marks, focussing on a geographical issue within a place-based context. Questions respond to a resource booklet drawing on synoptic themes from across the course.

Non-Examined Assessment 20%:

This is the coursework element of the course, where students conduct an independent investigation into a geographical question of their choice. Students design, collect and analyse fieldwork data and research to arrive at conclusions in a written report of 3,000-4,000 words.



Careers and next steps

“Geography is the must have A Level” according to the Guardian. Geography is highly valued by Universities as an A Level choice – the Russell Group Report names Geography as one of its eight facilitating subjects and it will keep many options open to you when it comes to applying. Geographers also enter a very wide range of career areas and Geography graduates have one of the highest rates of graduate employment. While there is no such thing as a “geography job”, the skills and attributes acquired at A Level are highly relevant to the workplace. You will find geographers working in every sector of the economy including finance, local businesses, not-for-profit organisations, significant research or as key decision makers in local and national government, highlighting the range of possibilities for geographers.

