

Geography in the Sixth Form

What do I need to be able to take this course?

Edexcel A Level Geography

You should have an interest in the world around you, be it a curiosity about how a landscape has formed, or an interest in how a community might be affected by migration. You need to be prepared to leave the classroom and see for yourself what is going on!

The subject will appeal to you if:

- You are curious about the world's places, peoples and environments
- You like asking questions and finding answers
- You want the opportunity to carry out practical work outdoors, as well as classwork
- You are interested in local, regional and global issues
- You have the ability to think independently
- You wish to explore human, physical and environmental geographical relationships
- You want to broaden your as or a level studies to cover both 'sciences' and 'humanities'

We require you to have a 5 in Geography at GCSE, and a Grade 5 in English and Maths.

What will I do on the course?

Year 12

During the year you will study two physical geography topics: Tectonic Processes and Hazards and Landscape Systems, Processes and Change (e.g. Coasts). This includes learning about the distribution and causes of tectonic hazards, and how people predict, and manage disasters. In Landscapes, you will study the processes that create a landscape, and how it may be managed.

You will also study two human geography topics: Globalisation and Shaping Places. The causes and consequences of globalisation are looked into, including its impacts on culture and development. In the Places topic, how and why places vary and how they can be managed or regenerated are discussed.

Year 13

Additional topics studied in addition to those shown above include: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity, The Carbon Cycle and Energy Insecurity, Climate Change Futures. Questions about where energy and water comes from and issues surrounding sustainable use, inequality and management are tackled.

You will also study two further human geography topics: Superpowers and Global Development and Futures. Superpowers involves the study of some of the world's most influential countries and a look at how these have changed over time, and the role they play today. Current issues linked to human rights, migration and national identity are covered in the Development topic.



Besides the course content outlined above you will have the opportunity to develop your interest further. In particular the department will offer various fieldtrip opportunities. These include; Leeds, Bridlington, Hornsea and a one night residential to Liverpool and Formby on the west coast.

In July, Year 12 students also have the opportunity to take a trip to Iceland. This has been well supported in recent years and the feedback from students has been extremely positive. This 5 day trip really allows students to see Geography some awe-inspiring Geography. Many aspects of the trip link to the course but is not essential for the exams. This trip aims to promote a wider interest and understanding.

How is it assessed?

Paper 1 is worth 30% of the A-level. It is more focused on physical geography and asks questions about the Tectonics, Landscapes, Water, Carbon and Climate Change topics.

Paper 2 is worth 30% of the A-level. It is more focused on human geography and asks questions about the Globalisation, Places, Superpowers and Development topics.

Paper 3 is worth 20% of the A-level. It looks at a geographical issue affecting a place, and encourages students to think across topics to consider how players (people/organisations), their attitudes and actions can affect the future. The exact topic is revealed prior to the exam.

Coursework is worth 20% of the A-level course. Students will be given guidance in selecting an individual, unique question that relates to an area of the course outlined above. They will then carry out a geographical investigation, which includes fieldwork, to help answer that question. Students must carry out a minimum of four days of fieldwork over the two years.

What can I do with this course?

Geography is viewed by the top universities in the country as one of the eight facilitating subjects, i.e. it is a subject that will open up a much wider range of options at university and beyond. Geography is concerned with the real world – past, present and future. Geography combines well with almost all other A level subjects. Taken with sciences like Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology, Geography supports applications for almost any science-based university course like engineering, psychology, environmental sciences, oceanography and geology; taken with humanities like English, French, History or Economics, Geography supports an equally wide range of university courses such as law, business, media, politics and philosophy.

“Geography is considered a ‘facilitating subject’ by the Russell Group of Universities: Mathematics and Further Maths; English; Physics; Biology; Chemistry; Geography; History; Languages (Classical and Modern). By choosing facilitating subjects at A level, you will have a much wider range of opportunities open to you at university.”

<http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/informed-choices/>

As well as covering A level study of Geography this course will enable you to develop transferable geographical skills, and many of the Key Skills which will be essential to you whatever you go on to do afterwards. These are the basic skills of communication, numeracy and graphicacy (the drawing and interpretation of maps and diagrams), together with those of a more specific nature, including independent learning, thinking skills, problem solving (in landform or planning issues), data collection, analysis and interpretation of statistics, ICT (databases, spreadsheets), use of fieldwork instruments (surveying) and communication and working with others.