



A-Level Course Information



Qualification: Advanced Level Geography

Exam Board: AQA

Subject Leader: Mr S. Aitken

Entry Requirements:

Minimum Entry Requirements:

5 x 5s

4 in English and Maths

Subject Specific Entry Requirements:

6 in GCSE Geography

Why study Geography?

Does the Earth fascinate you? If it does, Geography is the subject for you. This is a topical and contemporary course focusing on many issues facing the world both today and in the future. It will help you to understand how these changes are affecting societies and the natural environment and look at ways of managing them sustainably.

What can I do with Geography after A-Level?

Many students follow this course with a geography-related degree. The course also has clear links with a range of other subjects which are popular degree courses such as biology, economics, business studies, and environmental science. Other students find the skills and knowledge gained from the A-level Geography course useful when pursuing degree courses or careers in other areas including journalism, travel, ICT, finance, meteorology, environmental management, planning and marketing.

Geography Extras

Geography offers you a range of fieldwork opportunities in the local area, within the UK and further afield (Iceland). In addition, links with the Geographical Association and Cambridge University will allow students to attend lectures on relevant geographic topics at the University.

What will I study?

The subject components for A -Level Geography are divided into three components:

1. Physical Geography
2. Human Geography
3. Geographical Fieldwork Investigation

Unit 1: Physical Geography. 40% of A-Level

Section A: Water and carbon cycles. This is a core component of the examination which considers the important role that water and carbon have in our evolving planet. Students answer short, levels of response and extended prose questions.

Section B: Coastal systems and landscapes. This is an optional component of the examination which explores the coastal zone as a system, looking at how processes shape and form a variety of landforms in different areas of the UK and globe.

Section C: Hazards. This is an optional component of the examination which investigates tectonic, volcanic, meteorological and wild fire hazards across the globe. It considers the extent of these hazards, how they are created and how to mitigate them.

Unit 2: Human Geography. 40% of A-Level

Section A: Global systems and global governance. This is a core component of the A level qualification and teaches students about globalisation, global governance and commons and concepts on international trade. Students answer short, levels of response and extended prose questions.

Section B: Changing places. This is a core component of the A level qualification and considers the ways in which places are defined, shaped and connected to other places locally and globally.

Section C: Population and the environment. This is an optional component and explores the key principles of population change, population ecology and their applications to human populations.

Unit 3: Geographical Fieldwork Investigation. 20% of A-Level

Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content. Students write up their fieldwork as a 3000-4000 word document that is marked by teachers and moderated by AQA. It is worth 60 marks.

This will involve a fieldtrip in October of Year 13 to Studland in Dorset. As part of the fieldwork programme in Year 12, there is also a day trip to Mill Road and local fieldwork around the school site.