

Geography A Level

Who is the course for?

This course is aimed at students who wish to go on to further education or a specific career path and would like to develop analytical and research skills as well as learn more about a range of contemporary geographical issues.

What does the course involve?

The course is split into three parts. Physical modules and human modules which are assessed in two exams at the end of year 13. Much of the content is delivered in year 12. There is also a non-examined assessment (coursework) element. This involves four days of practical fieldwork in the south west of England to gather primary data. We encourage students to help select areas of interest to visit. You will then decide on a specific area to carry out your own detailed investigation.

Modules:

Contemporary Urban Environments - The growth of cities, urban issues, climate, drainage, waste and environmental challenges. (Human)

Global Systems and Global Governance Globalisation, international trade, global marketing, global governance and the global commons. (Human)

Changing Places - The concept of place, character and perception of place, meanings and representations, factors that influence places over time. (Human)

Water and Carbon Cycles – The natural environmental cycles of water and carbon on planet earth, drainage, climate, case studies of places such as the Tropical Rainforests. (Physical)

Coastal Systems and Landscapes – The coastal system, processes and landforms, sea level change, coastal management. (Physical)

Hazards – Plate tectonics, volcanic hazards, seismic hazards (earthquakes), tropical storms, wildfires,

multi-hazard environments, hazard management. (Physical)

Assessment Methods

- **80% written examinations**

There are two exams, covering all of the human and physical content. All the modules are assessed. Paper 1 is physical geography, a 2.5 hour exam comprising of 40% of the A level. Paper 2 is the human geography, a 2.5 hour exam comprising of 40% of the A level.

- **20% independent investigation**

Non-examined assessment, approx. 4,000 words on a topic of your choice that relates to any of the modules 20% of the A level.

Progression Option

Geography is highly transferable. Employers appreciate the analytical skills and wider world view students of geography possess. This course will prepare you for a wide variety of further education courses as well as the world of work.

Physical geography compliments the pure sciences such as biological sciences or chemistry. It also compliments environmental sciences, oceanography, geology and marine biology, whilst human geography supports the study of social sciences including sociology and law. Universities appreciate that geographers bring an understanding of sustainable development and globalisation which is increasingly relevant to most fields of study today.

Career possibilities are numerous but might include: environmental management, conservation, town planning, surveying, architecture, risk assessment, hydrology, meteorology, volcanology, accountancy, researching, project management, journalism, teaching, geospatial technologies, law, armed services or civil service careers including sustainability management, transport or housing.

Awarding Body

AQA

