

Geography A Level

Exam Board: AQA

Subject Specific Criteria:

- Grade 5 in GCSE English Language
- Grade 5 in GCSE Geography if studied

As an A Level Geographer, you will develop a deep understanding of the physical and human world and the interactions between the two. You will develop the mind-set to 'think like a Geographer' which will set you apart from your non-Geographer peers.

There has never been a better or more important time to study A level Geography. Dealing with vital issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation, social issues and natural hazards, A level Geography is one of the most relevant subjects you could choose to study. Students enjoy the scope of the material they cover in geography, the insights it can provide into the world around us and the highly contemporary nature of the issues it tackles.

The A level Geography course is split into human and physical geography although the course is very fluid with some of the issues overlapping. Human topics include urbanisation, changing places and globalisation.

Physical geography topics include natural hazards, coastal environments and the water & carbon cycle.

Assessment:

Component 1: Physical Geography

- Written examination. 2 hours 30 minutes.
- 120 marks. 40% of A Level.

Component 2: Human Geography

- Written examination. 2 hours 30 minutes.
- 120 marks. 40% of A Level.

Component 3: Geographical Investigation (NEA)

- An individual fieldwork investigation.
- 60 marks. 20% of A Level. Marked by teachers, moderated by AQA.

Skills Required:

A good level of literacy and numeracy skills.

Independent learning.

An interest in the local and global issues.

Analytical/critical thinking.

Hard working.

Course Information:

Geography illustrates the past, explains the present and prepares us for the future ... what could be more important than that?

For A Level you will deepen your understanding of geography with a more intensive study of key elements that will extend your geographical understanding beyond the topics studied at GCSE. This will include the study of different types of landscapes; key processes such as the carbon and water cycles; how places change; global perspectives and a wide range of other topics. You will also undertake fieldwork and write an individual research project.

Future Opportunities:

You will find geographers working in a wide range of well-paid and professionally rewarding jobs, from financial services to planning/architecture, working in the environment to travel and tourism, or in international charities, law, retail and hazard management. Geographers are amongst the most highly sought after graduates because of their ability to think globally and to apply a massive range of diverse and transferable knowledge and skills. Transferable skills include: statistical, spatial and environmental analysis, independent research, the ability to collect, understand, analyse and interpret complex evidence and data. Geographers also make excellent problem solvers, team workers and communicators. With over 80 universities offering geography degrees across the UK, there is a wide range of choice for further study. Universities generally provide courses in both physical (BSc) and human (BA) geography. Most first year courses will be a mixture of human, physical and integrated geography and during your second and third year, you might select mainly physical, human or integrated options or a mixture of them. A recent report by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) for the Department of Education highlights that geography graduates have an above average likelihood of gaining employment, relative to graduates from other subjects, and are among the top subjects for graduate earnings.

The Russell Group of universities has also selected Geography as one of their 'facilitating' A Level subjects to support an application to all their degree courses.

Subject Enrichment:

A wide range of diverse fieldwork opportunities and visits.