



Geography



What our students say:

“Geography is an exciting and wide ranging subject that has helped me to appreciate the complexities of our world. The course enables you to study many topical issues, from tectonics and glaciation to globalisation and human rights, and you even have the opportunity to complete research into an area that interests you as part of your coursework. It is also a subject that is greatly appreciated by employers and universities and leads to so many different career paths and opportunities.”

Entry Requirements:

5 GCSEs graded 9 – 4, including English and Mathematics

Exam Board and Specification Link:

Edexcel A Level Geography, 9GE0: [Edexcel-GCE-A-level-Geography-specification-](#)

What skills will you develop?

Studying geography will allow you to gain a good grasp of why, when and where certain things happen. In the process, you will develop analytical and evaluative skills, learn to use and interpret statistical data and develop your essay and decision making skills. Enquiry questions will enable you to learn how to carry out effective geography fieldwork in groups and as an individual as well as encouraging you to debate key issues or concepts. By gaining an in-depth understanding of physical and human geography, you will learn to become critical, reflective and independent learners.

What will you study?

Paper 1: The physical paper will examine tectonic processes and associated hazards, glacial processes and landforms as well as water and energy insecurities and how any issues may be tackled in the future. You will have to answer a selection of short data response questions as well as longer extended writing questions. This paper is worth 30% of the qualification.

Paper 2: The human paper will focus on globalisation and its consequences, superpowers and geopolitics, the regeneration of urban areas from around the world, and issues associated with health, human rights and intervention. You will have to answer a selection of short data response questions as well as longer extended writing questions. This paper is worth 30% of the qualification.

Paper 3: The synoptic paper will be based on a geographical issue within a particular named place in the world, and you will have to read and interpret a variety of resources, and then respond to resource-linked questions. This paper is worth 20% of the qualification and is similar to the SDME studied in the Edexcel B GCSE.

Coursework: Independent Investigation: You are required to complete an independent investigation (NEA) of between 3000 and 4000 words that will be worth 20% of the qualification. You will be expected to define a question, or issue for investigation based on any aspect of geography that you have enjoyed from the course. Carrying out fieldwork techniques, both primary and secondary will form a key component of this unit.



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Fieldwork Expectations

All specifications for geography require students to carry out at least 4 days of fieldwork. This should be divided between physical and human geography. Students will therefore take part in a three-day residential fieldtrip to the Norfolk coastline focusing on coastal processes and management as well as rural rebranding and other issues. Students will also spend one day in Birmingham focusing on the regeneration of a large urban area. The students will also have the opportunity to take part in an enrichment visit to Iceland, which will bring their studies of tectonic activities and glaciation to life.

Why study this subject?

Geography is the study of the physical processes and landforms that shape and cover our world as well as how people interact with the environment they live in. It is a very relevant and interesting subject that encourages you to explore and evaluate contemporary geographical questions and issues. This includes the consequences of globalisation, climate change, investigating solutions to things like water security or effective hazard management.

How will you be assessed?

The A level consists of three exam papers which are all taken at the end of the second year. Paper 1 and 2, physical and human papers respectively, both consist of a 2 hour and 15 minute exam. Paper 3, the synoptic paper, is also a 2 hour and 15 minute exam. Finally, the independent investigation is an internally assessed 3000 - 4000 word report.

Where can the subject lead?

Studying geography develops a wide variety of skills that are very sought after by employers. Following a degree in physical geography would allow you to become a meteorologist, hydrologist, climate change or pollution analyst, or pursue a career in hazard management. Human geographers may go into town planning, marketing, retail management, conservation or become a specialist in GIS or remote sensing.

Contact Information

For further information about this course, contact Liz Taylor, Head of Geography, at:
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