

A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY



WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT?

We will be following the Pearson Edexcel specification. This specification has been chosen for its broad but highly relevant topics allowing for flexibility of future study options.

The course is equally split between Physical and Human Geography. As part of the physical topics we will consider Tectonic Hazards. We will evaluate their causes and what impacts they have on a range of societies and consider questions such as why earthquakes of the same magnitude cause wildly different death rates. We also study Glacial Landscapes and the glacial processes that affect our Earth sculpting the vast mountain valleys across the globe. Finally, the crucial water and carbon cycles will be studied in depth- allowing us to understand how Earth's life support systems affect us and how we affect these two cycles, both positively and negatively.

Human topics such as Globalisation and Superpowers are explored. We will consider the implication of global trade and how this forms both winners and losers. The relevant geopolitical topic of Superpowers allows us to consider the cold war, the Middle East Uprising and the rise of China and asks students to think about the nations that may influence their lives in the future. We will also study Regenerating Places which discusses the need and impact of regeneration. Finally we deliberate what is a nation state, and is the idea of a nation important as part of our migration, Identity and Sovereignty topic.

OUR APPROACH TO TEACHING AND LEARNING

- Students are encouraged to develop their knowledge of locations, places, processes and environments at all geographical scales
- Lessons use a range of techniques and activities to ensure students receive a varied, engaging yet focused learning experience.
- Students will be expected to complete a minimum of 4 days in the field. This will involve a 1 day trip to Birmingham, a comparative study of Hereford and 3 days in the Lake District.
- We use Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to present and analyse geographical data and give students the opportunity to advance their skills with virtual reality tasks from the University of Worcester.
- Teaching is done by specialist and experienced Geography teachers with detailed examination knowledge to assist in examination preparation.

A LEVEL ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed by three written examinations in the summer of year 2.

Unit 1 – Dynamic Landscapes

Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes

30% of qualification

Unit 2 – Dynamic Places

Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes

30% of qualification

Unit 3 – Synoptic Paper

Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes

20% of qualification

Unit 4 – Investigative Geography

20% of qualification

An independent investigation of approximately 4000 words undertaken by each student on an aspect of any of the above topics. We are **very flexible** and encourage students to investigate an area of geography that they are especially interested in or enjoy.

The Guardian's view on Geography 'It's a must have A Level'

'Geographers learn about the physics of climate change, or the interaction of weather events and flood risk, or the way people's behaviour is influenced by the space around them.'

ENTRY AND SKILL REQUIREMENTS

What are the entry requirements for A Level Geography?

- If Geography has been sat at GCSE level – a minimum of a level 6
- Minimum of a 5 in English
- Minimum of a 4 in Maths

The new Geography A level requires an ability to write extended answers, so it is essential that students are able and willing to write essays. 10% of the mark allocation is also based around maths and statistics therefore some basic mathematical understanding is also required.

TRIPS AND VISITS

Geography is a field science, so we try to get out and about as much as we can. Local visits are used to help build up case study knowledge. Further visits to the Lake District or Snowdonia are used to help build up understanding of process in relict glacial environments. We also run additional optional trips bi-annually alongside our Geologists to Iceland or Sicily. Some Geographers choose to join our Environmental Scientists and head to Costa Rica for some rain forest conservation work.



WHY STUDY GEOGRAPHY AT A LEVEL?

The topics considered within A Level Geography are relevant to a range of degree and work related areas. The Russell Group consider Geography useful for the following degrees: Politics, Earth Sciences, Conservation, Civil Engineering and Geology amongst others. It was one of the eight facilitating subjects in the Russell Group Report published in 2018.

Our A Level geography course will also, importantly, show the applied side of the subject – how human intervention affects the environment and how people adapt and mitigate the effects of processes on their environment. This is complex and dynamic and will provide plenty of room for discussion and extended research, which will help you become an independent thinker and learner.

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