

A-Level Geography

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

What does the course cover?

During this course you will cover a range of human and physical topics. The new curriculum is designed to excite students' minds, challenge perceptions and stimulate your investigative and analytical skills. The units covered will reflect the world today as well as incorporating traditional elements. Fieldwork is extremely important and over the two years you will do four days (residential).

Topics covered are from the following:

- Tectonic processes and hazards
- Coastal landscapes and change
- Globalisation
- Regenerating places
- The water cycle and water insecurity
- The carbon cycle and energy insecurity
- Superpowers
- Global development connections
- Geographical skills and fieldwork

What skills will the course help you develop?

Studying Geography enables you to develop a comprehensive understanding of many global issues that we are currently facing. You will have the ability to examine a range of contemporary matters and discuss these complex issues in a balanced manner. In addition, studying Geography provides the opportunity to enhance a range of skills:

- understanding the nature and use of different types of information, including qualitative and quantitative data, primary and secondary data, images, factual text and discursive/creative material, digital data, numerical and spatial data
- collecting, analysing and interpreting such information, and demonstrating the ability to understand and apply suitable analytical approaches for the different information types
- undertaking informed and critical questioning of data sources, analytical methodologies, data reporting and presentation, including the ability to identify sources of error in data and to identify the misuse of data.

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed through written exams and a Coursework Independent Geographical Investigation for the full A-Level, using a combination of multiple choice, short answers and extended prose. There are two exams at the end of Year 13 (each 2 hours 15 minutes). The coursework is submitted at the end of Y13 which is internally assessed and is 3000–4000 words in length.

What are the entry requirements?

Students wishing to study Geography should have 5 GCSEs A*-C, including a Grade B in English. A good GCSE in Geography is desirable, but not necessary. Strong English, Maths and Science GCSEs will be an advantage.

What do students who study this course go on to do?

Students who study this course have gone on to study a wide range of subjects at university, from sciences to arts subjects. This subject is widely applicable to many different areas, such as law, journalism, research roles and environmental work. Universities and employers have identified Geography to be a facilitator subject and is highly regarded.

Who is the staff contact for Geography?

Mrs Knibbs is the lead teacher working closely with Miss Taylor and Mrs Shipman.