

Subject: Geography

Level: A Level



Entry Requirements

GCSE Geography - grade B or higher
GCSE Maths and English - grade 5 or higher

Course Outline (Exam Board: OCR)

This course allows students to develop a more detailed understanding of the relationship of human populations to each other over space and time and focusses on the relationship between human populations and their physical environment.

In Year 12 both modules are directly taught, one of them will also include a fieldwork investigation and students will be examined following data collection in the field. In Year 13, students will need to use the skills acquired in Year 12 to investigate their own question and hypothesis and complete a coursework piece. The other units include the units studied in Year 12, plus some additional topics.

What will I learn on this course?

This course will enable you to:

- Structure a line of enquiry to arrive at a logical conclusion;
- Evaluate data and identify patterns;
- Research a wide range of topics using a variety of resources;
- Prioritise courses of action, to tackle a range of problems;
- To use ICT to enhance and analyse work.

Who would be a successful student of Geography?

This course will appeal to students who:

- Like practical investigations;
- Have an enquiring mind and inquisitive nature;
- Have original ideas about how to tackle a range of problems;
- Are interested in the world around them (social, economic, political and environmentally);
- Are able to demonstrate an empathy with people from different backgrounds;
- Like discussing different themes or issues;
- Enjoy thinking about, and being faced with problems;
- Like the approach of different styles to study a topic.

Compulsory Fieldwork

Students are required to complete 2 days of fieldwork in order to complete the AS course and 4 days for the A2 course. In the past, these days have been completed in Barcelona, Field Study Centres in the UK and variety of day trips.

Career Opportunities

Geographical skills are valued by a wide range of employers because they train people to approach problems with an open mind. In particular, a qualification in Geography would be valued in management, leisure and recreation, environmental management and any work involving social skills. Geographers learn to work as part of a team as well as to develop individual strengths. As a result Geographers have one of the best employment records of all graduates.

Course Structure

A Level

Unit 1 – (22% of A Level) Physical systems

Section 1.1, option A - Coastal landscapes

Section 1.2 – Earth's life support systems – Water and carbon cycles and ecosystems

Unit 2 – (22% of A Level) Human interactions

Section 2.1 – Changing Spaces; Making Places

Section 2.2 – Global Connections. Option A 'Trade in the Contemporary World' or 'Global Migration.'

Section 2.3 – Global Governance. Option C 'Human Rights' or 'Power and Borders.'

Unit 3 – (36% of A level) Geographical debates. Choose 2 topics from the list below:

- Climate Change
- Disease Dilemmas
- Exploring Oceans
- Future of Food
- Hazardous Earth

Unit 4 – (20% of A Level) Geographical Investigation

Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.