

Subject: Geography

Level: A Level

Exam Board: OCR



Course Outline

A Level Geography is a fantastic opportunity to continue studying Geography. Students sit exams at the end of year 13 and complete their NEA during year 12 and 13. Some topics build on what students have studied in their GCSEs (for example the coasts topic) allowing students to delve deeper into topics they are familiar with whilst other topics feature new ideas and content such as the Power and Borders section looking at Geopolitics and issues around sovereignty and global intervention.

Both Human and Physical Geography is studied. Exam 1 is Physical Geography and Exam 2 Human. Exam 3 is a mix of both human and Physical. The NEA is decided by the student.

What will I learn on this course?

This course will enable you to explore:

- How the natural world works including some of the most important processes in the world like the carbon and water cycles.
- How human activity and life is changing around the world.
- How to interpret, analyses and evaluate data

Who would be a successful Geographer?

This course will appeal to students who:

- Love Geography!
- Enjoys learning about the natural and human world and how it works
- Are interested in the challenges we face in the world now and in the future and how they will be solved
- Enjoy creating, using and evaluating data
- Are good problem solvers

Enrichment opportunities

In year 12 students attend a variety of day trips to practice their fieldwork investigations and collect data. In the past these have included: Hunstanton, Brighton, Bedford, London Docklands and the South Downs National Park.

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 at University level. According to the UK's Higher Education Statistics Agency (Hesa), geography graduates are among the least likely to be unemployed with 90% being employed or in further study after 6 months of graduating.

Course Structure

Exam 1 (22%)

- Coasts
- Carbon and Water Cycles

Exam 2 (22%)

- Changing Urban and Rural Environments
- Global Migration
- Power and Borders (Geopolitics)

Exam 3 (36%)

- Climate Change
- Tectonic Hazards

NEA (20%)

- A fieldwork investigation where students decide their own enquiry question and collect data to investigate it. Examples in the past have included:
 - Does the perception and use of Barnet High Street vary according to gender
 - How successful is coastal management in Sherringham?
 - How do attitudes towards climate change vary between Stevenage and Hitchin?
 - How are infiltration rates affected by soil moisture?