

GEOGRAPHY

Contact: Stuart Dean

Exam board: AQA

Geography is the study of natural landscapes (physical geography) and of people and their environment (human geography).

In this course you will learn about the physical and human processes that affect places and environments that shape the world in which we live. At a personal level, you should be interested in the world around you and in learning about people, places and the environment. This course will encourage you to be interested in local and global issues.

During the course you will be involved in a range of teaching and learning styles, both within and outside the classroom. These include fieldwork activities, decision making exercises, presentations of research material and thinking skills where you actively involved in lessons. In order to complete tasks effectively you will have to develop a range of practical, descriptive and analytical skills.

This qualification is linear with all the exams taken at the end of the course

A level Geography

The course has 3 components:

1. Physical Geography

- Section A: Water and carbon cycles
- Section B: either Hot desert environments and their margins or **Coastal systems and landscapes**
- Section C: either **Hazards** or Ecosystems under stress or Cold environments

2. Human Geography

- Section A: Global systems and global governance
- Section B: Changing places
- Section C: either Contemporary urban environments or **Population and the environment** or Resource security

Assessment

- Both of these exams are assessed in a written exam of 2 hours 30 minutes which is worth 96 marks (40% of the A-level)
- The questions will be a mixture of multiple-choice, short answer levels of response and extended prose

3. 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.

Assessment

- A report of 3,000–4,000 words worth 35 mark (20% of the A-level). This is marked by teachers but moderated by AQA.

Attributes required for entry into the course

The syllabus assumes that candidates have achieved Grade 5 or better in GCSE Geography, and a grade 5 in either English Literature or Language.

Students who have completed the course in the past have gone on to a wide variety of courses, including law, accounting and health studies. Last year a number of students went on to study geography at university and others have used the skills learned in the subject useful for other courses such as environmental sciences.

Geography contains all the skills that employers consider important and therefore studying geography makes you attractive to future employers.