

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: A level

Teacher Contact: Mr Peacock

Entry Requirements: Grade 6 or above in GCSE Geography is preferred, but the course is also open to students who did not study Geography in Years 10 and 11 in which case a minimum grade 6 in English and Mathematics is required.

What will I study?

In Year 1 the course is comprised of four units:

Unit 1: Physical geography

Water and carbon develops understanding of how the physical world operates and the fundamentals of life and energy on earth. We look at how different parts of the world are dealing with climate change, for example in the Amazon of Ecuador.

Ecosystems under stress looks at a variety of ecosystems around the earth and why they are currently at risk. You will gain an understanding of how small-scale ecosystems function alongside biome management and sustainability of ecosystems for the future.

Unit 2: Human geography and fieldwork investigation

In this unit you will develop an understanding of human geography through changing places and fieldwork. This unit will allow you to understand how increased interdependence has transformed the relationships between peoples, states and environments.

Geography fieldwork investigation will help you develop the skills people use to answer real-life problems. We will develop these skills through trips.

In Year 2 the course is comprised of two further units:
Physical geography: Coastal systems. Human geography: Changing places and contemporary urban environments.

Am I suited to this course?

A level Geography covers both the physical and human environments and the complex interaction of processes that shape our world. It will also show how human intervention affects the environment and how people adapt and mitigate the effects of processes on their environment. There is plenty of room for discussion and extended research which will help you become an independent thinker and learner.

You will learn in a wide variety of ways such as by using maps, GIS skills, data analysis, photos, videos and podcasts, as well as attending lectures and study days. You will be encouraged to frame your own questions using higher-level thinking skills and showing your grasp of complex issues through report and essay writing.

What other subjects does it complement?

Geography combines well with both Arts and Science subjects.

Where can it lead?

You may already be thinking ahead to potential university and career choices so it is worth bearing in mind that Geography is a broad-based subject that really fits well for your future progression. Geography can lead to a wide range of careers because you will gain a good understanding of the world and the skills needed to interpret it.

Of course, many A level students do not yet have a clear idea of what kind of career they might want to pursue, so if this is you then remember that Geography as an A level gives you the chance to keep your options open as it covers both arts and science components and is highly regarded by universities and employers.

If you are interested in the world and want to learn more about it then Geography A level is for you.