

GEOGRAPHY

Qualification Level	A Level
Exam Board/ Specification	Edexcel Geography
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Why study this course?

There are many reasons why people decide to study geography. Some of these may apply to you:

- You enjoy learning about people and their societies, economies, cultures and the environment
- You are keen to learn and develop a wide range of skills
- You are seeking a broad based academic subject that offers a range of degree courses and above average graduate employability. Geography is a 'key facilitating subject' (Russell Group) for future studies.
- You enjoy both arts and science subjects as it is a broad based and so a good choice if you are unsure on your direction you wish to go in after A levels as there are links to business, medicine, law, human rights and sustainable innovation to name a few.

Course content

The Geography A Level course combines engaging contemporary issues such as tectonic hazards, globalisation and water scarcity with popular and familiar themes such as changing landscapes and human development. There is a balance of two physical geography themes and two human geography themes as well as the opportunity to develop a wide range of geographical skills, including qualitative and quantitative data skills. A coursework component has been introduced with an easy to navigate independent investigation incorporating fieldwork and research.

Exam/ Assessment structure

External Exams (80%)

Paper 1 – Dynamic Landscapes – 2 hours 15 minutes (30%)

Paper 2 – Dynamic Places – 2 hours 15 minutes (30%)

Paper 3 – Synoptic Paper – 2 hours 15 minutes (20%)

Non Examined Assessment (20%)

An independent report of between 3000 and 4000 words where the student identifies their own question to focus on and carries out fieldwork and research based on this. The report will evidence independent analysis and evaluation of data, presentation of data findings and extended writing.

Higher education/ career links

Geography provides students with a range of skills that are recognised by employers, universities and colleges as being of great value. These include collecting, analysing and interpreting data, communicating your findings in different ways and identifying and developing links between different parts of the subject. Geography supports a wide range of university courses. Also many students use this qualification to go straight into employment in areas such as law, accountancy, journalism or travel.

Specific equipment or resources required

You will need to be able to carry out data collection independently either in the local area or on the field trip. There is a requirement to complete a minimum of four days outside of the classroom exploring geographical themes. As a school we run a field trip to the North Norfolk coast for four days in the July of Year 12 to give students this opportunity.

It is recommended that students have their own copy of the two A Level text books. These are available second hand and new on Amazon – you have to be quick to get the second hand ones! (Geography for Edexcel A level Year 1 and Geography for Edexcel A Level Year 2 – both by Bob Digby et al and published by Oxford University Press.)

Entry requirements

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Geography plus Grade 5 or above in Science and Maths is beneficial.