

Geography

A Level

Head of Department:

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Exam Board: AQA



What is the course about?

In Geography we will study a range of exciting, challenging and topical themes covering both human and physical geography topics that will challenge your perceptions and stimulate your investigative and analytical skills. You will examine the complexity of interactions between people and the environment in units such as Hazards, Coastal Systems, Global Systems and Governance, Water and Carbon Cycles, Ecosystems under stress, Contemporary Urban Environments and, of course, investigative fieldwork. You will develop as a critical and reflective learner, be able to articulate your opinion and provide data analysis and evidenced arguments on a range of key issues facing the world today: skills much sought after in both Higher Education and by employers.

What will I study in the first year?

In the first year you will study Hazards, Coastal Systems and Landscapes and Changing Places. You will gain an understanding of hazards that impact on human populations, often in dramatic and sometimes catastrophic fashion; focus on the processes, landforms and management of coastal zones; and you will question our perception of place and examine how places are represented through various media (photographs, literature, music, art, graffiti, TV & film) as well as maps and statistics. You will understand and appreciate how places are experienced and how they change and develop over time. We also plan to undertake a residential fieldtrip, in the past this has been to the Lake District.

What will I study in the second year?

In the second year you will study 'Water and Carbon Cycles', 'Global Systems and Global Governance' and 'Population and the Environment'.

How is the course assessed?

Assessment is 80% exam and 20% Geographical Investigation.

What skills will I develop in this course?

Through the study of Geography you will develop an in-depth understanding of processes in physical and human geography; be able to collect, interpret, analyse and evaluate data and evidence as well as construct arguments and draw conclusions. *"It is inherently multidisciplinary in a world that increasingly values people who have the skills needed to work across the physical and social sciences. Geographers get to learn data analysis. They can turn maps from a two-dimensional representation of a country's physical contours into a tool that illustrates social attributes or attitudes: not just about where people live, but how, what they think and how they vote"* **Geography: it's the must-have A-Level The Guardian August 2015**

What does this subject offer for higher education and future careers?

Geography is highly valued by universities as an A-Level choice. In 2011 The Russell Group report named Geography as a facilitating subject. *'Facilitating subjects (sometimes called 'informed choices') are those A level subjects which are more frequently required for university entry than others. Including at least 2 facilitating subjects in your A level choices will give you a wide range of degree courses to choose from.'* www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk