

As a student following the A-Level Geography course, you will have the opportunity to develop your understanding of the world around you.

The AQA specification is current and has units, which reflect the rapidly changing world around us. Covering both Human and Physical Geography, you will be able to deepen your understanding of why the world is the way it is. We will look at people and the places in which they live, assessing how places change over time.

In your fieldwork investigation (Non-Examination Assessment) you will have the opportunity to independently research an area of the specification which is of particular interest to you.

Qualities and qualifications needed

To study A-Level Geography, you need to have an enquiring and open mind. As we will be studying the world around us, it helps to be aware of current events both in the UK and globally. Reading newspapers/watching the TV news helps to keep your subject knowledge up to date.

It is important to understand other people's views as well as having your own opinion. You will need to be able to learn and use new terminology and constructs says that are both clear and succinct.

In addition, you will use your skills in mathematics to interpret graphs, analyse data and draw conclusions from fieldwork. Grade 6 in GCSE Geography.

Grade 5 in GCSE English and mathematics.

How will the course be assessed?

Physical Geography

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes, 120 marks, 40% of A-Level.

Human Geography

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes, 120 marks, 40% of A-Level.

Geography Fieldwork Investigation (NEA)

3,000 – 4,000 words, 60 marks 20% of A-Level, marked by teachers, moderated by AQA.



Course Content

The A-Level in Geography develops many of the ideas and topics that you have studied at GCSE, allowing you to learn about them in more detail, however, there are also new topic areas, which you will not have studied before.

The course comprises mandatory units, which are examined in Section A of components 1 & 2, plus optional units. These optional units will be decided at the discretion of the staff depending upon student interest and staff expertise.

Component 1

- Section A – Water and carbon cycles.
- Section B – Either hot desert systems and landscapes or coastal systems and landscapes or glacial systems and landscapes.
- Section C – Either hazards or ecosystems under stress.

Component 2

- 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.

Component 3 – Non-Examination Assessment

- 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.



Examinations

Components 1 & 2

Will be examined in the Summer Term of Y13.

Component 3

Will usually be completed during the Autumn Term of Y13.

Methods of curriculum delivery

During the course, you will experience a range of teaching and learning styles, depending upon the module covered. It is expected that you will be able to work independently and undertake background reading and preparation for class, participate in class discussions and attend fieldwork visits on at least four occasions.
