

Geography

Examination board – OCR



Geography at Advanced level combines knowledge and analysis of current issues, develops practical skills, problem-solving techniques, and allows study at all scales from local to global in different parts of the world and different types of environments. Geography complements all other areas of study because of the great breadth of knowledge, understanding and skills it gives.

Geography may be studied in combination with any subjects: Mathematics, Sciences, Arts, Humanities, or Languages. The range of skills involved makes you adaptable and opens up a range of career possibilities in different employment sectors. A level geographers have gone on to study and undertake careers in medicine, law, engineering, dentistry and veterinary sciences as well as in sectors such as financial services, environmental management, business analysis and retail management. The A level will provide students with a vast array of knowledge, understanding and skills that will equip them well for study at University - irrespective of subject choice - and for subsequent employment.

Students will follow the OCR specification which builds upon what they will have already studied at GCSE and focuses on developing an understanding of the interrelationships between people and their varied environments, and the questions, issues and problems which arise from those relationships. The specification involves a balanced study of physical, human and other geographical topics, and enables specialisation in an area of particular interest in the student's own investigation report (Unit 4).

The A level will include four field days in the Lower Sixth, linked to the study of some of the topics below. In addition, there is the incredibly popular option of visiting Iceland on our bi-annual expedition.

OCR A Level content

The A level is examined in four compulsory units, comprising the following topics:

Unit 1 – Physical Systems

- Landscape systems
- Earth's life support systems

Unit 2 – Human Interactions

- Changing spaces; making places
- Global migration
- Human rights

Unit 3 – Geographical debates

- Hazardous Earth
- Medical Geography

Paper 4 – Independent Investigation

This exciting opportunity allows students to carry out fieldwork and undertake geographical investigation relating to a geographical question of their choice, which is linked to any topic of the A level.

Assessment – examination details

Unit 1 – 22% - 1 hour 30 minutes
Unit 2 – 22% - 1 hour 30 minutes
Unit 3 – 36% - 2 hours 30 minutes
Unit 4 – 20% - Independent Investigation

Assessment details for Units 1 and 2

Assessment ranges from very short answer questions to 16 mark questions, and each paper comprises 66 marks in total. Assessment can be viewed as a natural extension of GCSE style assessment. There are some data stimulus questions using a resource booklet in both papers.

Assessment details for Unit 3

Assessment ranges from very short answer questions to 33 mark questions, and comprises 108 marks in total. Some of the learning and assessment in this unit can be described as synoptic: the topics of Hazardous Earth and Medical Geography are the discrete topics of this unit; however, some questions draw on knowledge and understanding linked to content in different parts of Unit 1 and 2. There are some data stimulus questions using a resource booklet.

Assessment for Unit 4 - The paper comprises an internally assessed investigative report of 3000 to 4000 words, and comprises 60 marks.

Geography is a vital subject for preparing young people for life in the 21st century and offers so much to the understanding of our planet. This specification is designed to address the key ideas and debates in our world today.

GCSE Entry Requirements

We would ideally like students to have achieved grade 7 – 9 at GCSE.

