

Geography

Examination board: OCR



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.

Geography at Advanced Level combines knowledge and analysis of current issues; it develops practical skills and problem-solving techniques; and it facilitates the study of different parts of the world, and different environments, from a range of perspectives (local to global!).

The study of Geography provides pupils with a great breadth of knowledge and understanding and a range of skills. As a result, it may be studied in combination with any subjects: Mathematics, Sciences, Arts, Humanities, or Languages. The range of skills gained 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 equip pupils well for study at university, irrespective of subject choice, and for future employment.

Pupils will follow the OCR specification: it 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 pupil'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, we run a very popular bi-annual expedition to Iceland.

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 pupils to carry out fieldwork and undertake geographical investigation relating to a geographical question of their choice, 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 short-answer questions to 16-mark questions; each paper comprises 66 marks in total. Assessment of these papers is 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 short-answer questions to 33-mark questions; this paper comprises 108 marks in total. Some of the learning and assessment in this unit can be described as synoptic: whilst the topics of Hazardous Earth and Medical Geography are discrete topics, some questions draw on knowledge and understanding linked to content in different parts of Units 1 and 2. There are some data stimulus questions using a resource booklet.

Assessment details for Unit 4

The paper involves an internally assessed investigative report of 3000 to 4000 words; it comprises 60 marks.

