

GEOGRAPHY IN THE SIXTH FORM

WHY STUDY GEOGRAPHY?

Geography is everywhere; it helps to explain how the world works, allowing students to put current events in context; whether through the formation of a hurricane on the coast of Portland, the global shift of industry to the Far East or the intricacies of Brexit.

It helps us with a reasoned understanding of history by mapping and contextualising events spatially. It develops an understanding of global culture and how these cultures shape a place or why they are being eroded. Geography allows students to understand the place where they live, why people have settled there and why they haven't.

Geography introduces the 'global village' and reflects on how changes in technology have made places so interdependent. Geographic skills guide important decisions every day, from local government to the United Nations, from architecture and planning to law and politics, from environmental summits to global business. Human and physical geography frame the debates that are happening today and offer students the skills and knowledge to deal with them.

A LEVEL

The AQA linear geography A Level is composed of three components:

1. Physical geography

Section A: Water and carbon cycles

Section B: either

- i. Hot desert systems and landscapes
- ii. Coastal systems and landscapes
- iii. or Glacial systems and landscapes

Section C: either Hazards or Ecosystems under stress

2. Human geography

Section A: Global systems and global governance - globalisation, international trade and access to markets and the governance of the 'global commons'; a study of Antarctica.

Section B: Changing places - involves the study of two contrasting places, one to be local, using a variety of appropriate investigative techniques.

Section C: either:

- i. Contemporary urban environments
- ii. Population and the environment
- iii. or Resource security



3. Geographical investigation

The Individual Geographical Investigation, which is a non-examined assessment, must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content. To assist in their understanding and to help structure their NEA, students attend a compulsory trip to a Field Study Centre in Devon.

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH

A Level Geography makes links throughout the syllabus allowing students to learn through a multi-disciplinary approach.

Human Geography uses economic theory, sociology and politics whilst looking at the complexities of Global Governance.

Physical Geography makes links through the Sciences throughout the syllabus, whether that be through global ecosystems, climatic hazards or mechanical processes.

Statistical testing is practiced throughout all units, with students needing to present and analyse data in both their classroom-based studies and their internal assessment.

CO-CURRICULAR

A Level students are encouraged to attend lectures given by prominent university lecturers and are given the opportunity to take part in the local MUN (Model United Nations) competition. All students are encouraged to watch geographical documentaries on TV as well as keeping a watch for geographical issues in the news. Optional trips of a more general geographical nature are organised in the October half term holiday, with trips to Iceland, Switzerland and Italy in recent years.



A LEVEL RESULTS 2019

| GRADE | A | B | C | A - C |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Geography | 20% | 40% | 60% | 100% |