

Course Level

A Level

Awarding Body

OCR

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in Geography

Assessment

Unit 1: Physical systems = 1 hour 30 minutes exam worth 22% of A level

Unit 2: Human interactions = 1 hour 30 minutes exam worth 22% of A level

Unit 3: Geographical debates = 2 hour 30 minutes exam worth 36% of A level

Unit 4: Independent Investigation (non examined coursework) worth 20% of A level

Course Description

Geography is an exciting and dynamic subject that addresses key issues in our world today. Geography allows students to enjoy learning about the complexities of people and their societies, economies, cultures and the environment. During the two years students will develop and apply their understanding of geographical concepts and processes to help them interpret our rapidly changing world. The course develops students as global citizens who recognise the challenges of sustainability and the implications for their own lives and others.

Aims and learning outcomes:

- Develop their knowledge of locations, places, processes and environments, at all geographical scales from local to global across the specification as a whole.
- Recognise and be able to analyse the complexity of people-environment interactions at all geographical scales, and appreciate how these underpin understanding of some of the key issues facing the world today.
- Gain understanding of specialised concepts. These must include the concepts of causality, systems, equilibrium, feedback, inequality, representation, identity, globalisation, interdependence, mitigation and adaptation, sustainability, risk, resilience and thresholds.
- Improve their understanding of the ways in which values, attitudes and circumstances have an impact on the relationships between people, place and environment, and develop the knowledge and ability to engage, as citizens, with the questions and issues arising.
- Become confident and competent in selecting, using and evaluating a range of quantitative and qualitative skills and approaches, (including observing, collecting and analysing geo-located data) and applying them as an integral part of their studies.
- Understand the fundamental role of fieldwork as a tool to understand and generate new knowledge about the real world, and become skilled at planning, undertaking and evaluating fieldwork in appropriate situations.
- Apply geographical knowledge, understanding, skills and approaches in a rigorous way to a range of geographical questions and issues, including those identified in fieldwork, recognising both the contributions and limitations of geography.
- Develop as critical and reflective learners, able to articulate opinions, suggest relevant new ideas and provide evidenced arguments in a range of situations.

Special Requirements:

There is a compulsory fieldwork element to the A Level Geography course as fieldwork is an integral part of Geography. This will include a residential trip for four days in the UK.

Career and Progression Opportunities:

Geography is a key 'facilitating' or 'hard' subject in a guide compiled by the Russell Group (20 leading UK universities) so it is a highly recommended A Level to study. Geography can lead to a huge range of career or university course possibilities because of the numerous valuable skills gained throughout the course and the important and varied subject content learnt.

Students will develop intellectual skills, such as critically evaluating theories and judging evidence in order to make informed decisions and to develop reasoned arguments. Students will learn to competently use a range of technical methods for the collection and analysis of spatial and environmental data, and undertake four days of fieldwork to accurately collect this data. They will also learn to use and evaluate a range of quantitative and qualitative skills which are looked upon very favourably by employers and universities. The independent Investigation has been designed specifically to prepare students for university and the world of work through developing a number of geographical and study skills. Writing essays are an important part of geography A Level and therefore studying geography complements other option choices that lack this important literacy skill, giving the breadth to students A Levels which universities want. All of the skills learnt through studying geography are transferable and therefore will ensure students are prepared for their next steps beyond A Level.