Geography AS and A Level

Examination Board: AQA

"Geography is a living, breathing subject, constantly adapting itself to change. It is dynamic and relevant. For me geography is a great adventure with a purpose." Michel Palin

Geography is the study of the world around us, the issues we can see within it, and the interaction between people and the physical landscape.

It is important to recognise that studying Geography refines and hones the essential team work and problem solving skills that are much desired by universities and in the workplace. It has been identified as a 'facilitating subject.' Geography is a multifaceted discipline that requires us to think about the world and our place within it.

We will study the following units over the two year course: Water and Carbon Cycles; Coastal Systems; Hazards; Global Systems and Governance; Changing Places; Population and the Environment OR Resource security.

Fieldwork is an essential element of Geography. A residential trip and a number of day trips give students the opportunity to see Geography in action, enrich the learning experience and enhance understanding of the material that is covered. We currently visit Chesil Beach, look at the concept of place in Bourton-on-the-Water and Stratford in London

Students will also need to engage with independently planned fieldwork as a part of the Geography Fieldwork Investigation, which makes up 20% of the full A level grade (students do not need to complete this for the AS qualification but they will be examined on their fieldwork skills.)

Assessment:

All the written examinations combine short answer, multiple choice levels of response and some extended prose.

AS Level

Physical Geography and people and the environment
Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes — 80 marks — 50% of the AS Level

Human Geography and geography fieldwork investigation
Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes — 80 marks — 50% of the AS Level

A Level

Physical Geography
Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes — 120 marks — 40% of the A Level

Human Geography
Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes — 120 marks — 40% of the A Level

Geography Fieldwork Investigation
Students complete an investigation which must include data collected in the field.
3,000 - 4,000 words — 60 marks — 20% of the A Level. This will be internally assessed and moderated by AQA

Careers and Study Progression
We have a long history of sending significant numbers of students on to study Geography at Russell Group universities. These top institutions recognise the subject's academic rigour along with the valuable skills that it develops. Geography is recognised as an academic discipline, a subject which encourages independent thought and the analysis and evaluation of a wide range of sources. Geography graduates have some of the highest rates of graduate employment. As a subject, Geography combines well with sciences, especially health and social sciences, like Biology, Sociology and Psychology. Geographers can find careers in fields as diverse as catastrophe planning and crisis management, environmental law, sustainability, environmental planning, waste management and weather forecasting.