

POST 16 SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Name of Subject

Geography

Which Examination Specification is Studied for this Course?

AQA

Why should I study this course?

Your A Level geography course will cover both the physical and human environments and the complex interaction of processes that shape our world. It will also, importantly, show the applied side of the subject - how human intervention affects the environment and how people adapt and mitigate the effects of processes on their environment. This is complex and dynamic and varies from place to place depending on people's resources, technology and culture. There is plenty of room for discussion and extended research, which will help you become an independent thinker and learner. By the time you get to your exams, you will be able to show your understanding of a range of opinions and be able to illustrate your answers with case studies from local, national and international examples.

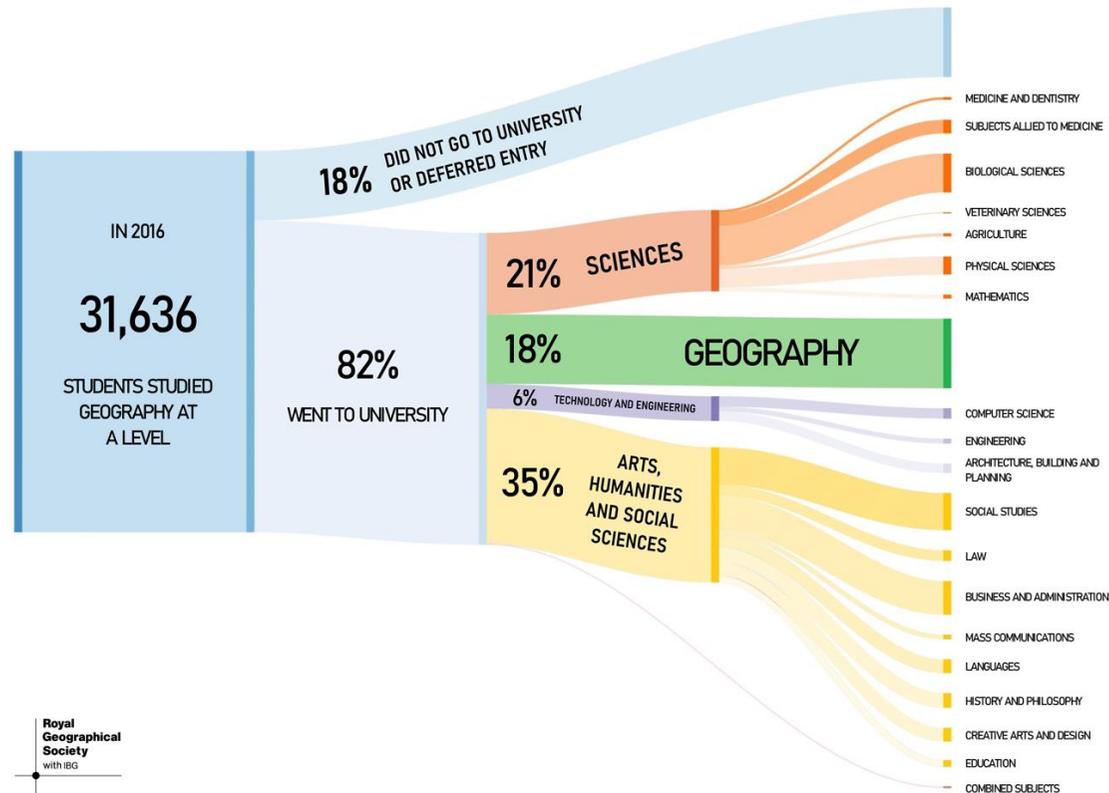
You will learn in a wide variety of ways, using maps, GIS skills, data analysis, photos, videos, and podcasts, as well as attending lectures and study days. You will be encouraged to frame your own questions using higher level thinking skills and show your grasp of complex issues through report and essay writing. Fieldwork will be an essential part of your A Level course - you will be required to complete 4-5 days of fieldwork in order to collect data to complete an investigation. This may take place in a location such as the Lake District or Isle of Arran.

Who is suitable to study this course?

GCSE Geography and a good grasp of science will give you a head start when studying A Level Geography. Having an interest in current affairs and recent news is important as this informs a lot of in-class discussion. You'll need a decent standard of Maths and English to cope with the writing and the work on graphs and data.

Geography is an academically robust subject, due to it spanning both the physical and social sciences and the focus placed upon geographical skills such as the increasingly popular GIS technology and statistics. The Russell Group of universities has recognised A Level geography as one of their preferred 'facilitating subjects' - supporting an application into a wide range of undergraduate courses. The knowledge and transferable skills that geographers gain from their degree studies are highly relevant to the workplace; levels of geography graduate unemployment are extremely low at 7.4% (2010). You will find

geographers working in every sector of the economy including finance, local businesses, not-for-profit organisations, significant research or as key decision makers in local and national government, highlighting the range of possibilities for geographers.



What GCSE Qualifications Support the Study of this Course?

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What are the Qualification Requirements for this Course?

Students will need to achieve a minimum of a grade 5 in GCSE Geography.

How is the Course Delivered?

The course is delivered by two specialist Geography teachers. You will have at least 4 hours of lessons per week, and will be expected to complete up to 4 hours per week of independent revision, research and homework. All resources are uploaded to Google classroom for future reference and revision. Tasks may also be set to complete electronically.

Subject Overview		
Half Term	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn 1	Urban Environments Hazards	NEA/Geographical Skills Water & carbon cycles
Autumn 2	Urban Environments Hazards	NEA/Geographical Skills Water & carbon cycles
Spring 1	Urban Environments Hazards	Global Systems Water & carbon cycles
Spring 2	Changing Places Coastal systems & landscapes	Global Systems Revision
Summer 1	Changing Places Coastal systems & landscapes	Examinations
Summer 2	Changing Places Coastal systems & landscapes	Examinations

How is the Course Assessed?

A Level Geography is split into three components for the AQA exam board:

Component 1 - Physical Geography: This is assessed by a 2 hour 30 minute exam (120 marks) that accounts for 40% of the A Level.

- Hazards (hazards in the lithosphere; volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis and in the atmosphere including hurricanes and flooding)
- Coastal systems & landscapes (what landforms and processes are found at the coast and how is it being managed)
- Water and carbon cycles (the key cycles which help to run the planet)

Component 2 - Human Geography: This is assessed by a 2 hour 30 minute exam (120 marks) that accounts for 40% of the A Level.

- Global systems and governance (how countries develop, and how we are operating increasingly at the global scale, including TNCs)
- Changing places (an opportunity to examine environmental and social challenges associated with urban growth and changing society)
- Contemporary urban environments

Component 3 - Geographical Investigation: This is a 3,000-4,000 word investigation (60 marks) that accounts for 20% of the A Level.

- Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field.
- Students complete a 4-5 day field trip to a location such as the Lake District or Isle of Arran to collect data in order to complete the investigation.

Assessment objectives (AOs) are set by Ofqual and are the same across all A-level Geography specifications and all exam boards.

The exams and non-exam assessment will measure how students have achieved the following assessment objectives.

- AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of places, environments, concepts, processes, interactions and change, at a variety of scales (30–40%).
- AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding in different contexts to interpret, analyse and evaluate geographical information and issues (30–40%).
- AO3: Use a variety of relevant quantitative, qualitative and fieldwork skills to:
 - investigate geographical questions and issues
 - interpret, analyse and evaluate data and evidence
 - construct arguments and draw conclusions (20–30%).

What is our Recommended Subject Reading list to Support your Study?

Websites

- [BBC News](#)
- [Oxfam policy & practice](#)
- [National Geographic](#)
- [Water Aid](#)

Books

- Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World and Why Things Are Better Than You Think, Hans Rosling
- The Map that changed the world, Simon Winchester
- Prisoners of Geography, Tim Marshall
- The no-nonsense guide to world poverty (New Internationalist)

Magazines/Journals

- Any broadsheet newspaper
- New Scientist
- New Internationalist
- The Economist

Podcasts

- The World Tonight - Radio 4 (BBC Sounds)
- From our own correspondent - BBC World Service (BBC Sounds)

Films/documentaries

- David Attenborough box sets (BBC iPlayer)
- Race across the world (BBC iPlayer)
- Australia on fire: Climate emergency (4OD)
- Touching the void (2003) (15) (Appears occasionally on Channel 4 and 4OD)
- Everest (2015) (12) (Netflix)
- The Impossible (2012) (12) (Appears occasionally on Channel 4 and 4OD)

