

POST 16 SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Post 16 Subject Overview

Name of Subject - Geography

Which Examination Specification is Studied for this Course? AQA A Level Geography

Why should I study this course?

Geography is the study of the world we live in, its environments, landscapes and natural disasters, and the relationship between people and environments. Geography is a unique subject because it looks at both the physical characteristics of the planet and the social characteristics which tells us how we affect our environment and how the environment affects us.

Students will develop a variety of transferable skills including problem-solving and critical thinking, research, cartographic skills, graphical and data analysis including statistical skills. Students will develop a critical awareness of the appropriateness and limitations of different sources and statistical techniques.

Students have the amazing opportunity to take part in a field trip to prepare for the NEA at the end of Y12. We have seen previous A Level students explore the Isle of Arran and Blencathra, Lake District.

Who is suitable to study this course?

This course is suitable for students who are interested in geography. Undertaking the GCSE Geography qualification is an excellent progression into studying A Level Geography. However, this is not a requirement.

Geographers develop transferable skills that make them highly sought-after by business, industry and universities. Geography graduates have some of the highest rates of employment because their skills bridge the gap between the arts and the sciences.

The skills that geography students develop are welcomed by employers in any career path including law, emergency planning, tourism, environmental consultancy, politics, business, management, public relations, journalism, teaching, law enforcement and financial services.

What GCSE Qualifications Support the Study of this Course?

To study this course it is advisable that you have achieved a Grade 5 in GCSE Geography. If you have not studied Geography before you will need Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics or Grade 5 in a GCSE Science.

What are the Qualification Requirements for this Course?

If you have studied GCSE Geography you must have Grade 5. If you have not studied Geography before you will need Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics or Grade 5 in a GCSE Science.

How is the Course Delivered?

Students have five lessons a week delivered by two teaching staff in the Geography department. The students also have the opportunity to attend an hour enrichment to expand their knowledge and understanding of A Level Geography.

In Y12 the units you will study are a mix of component 1 (Physical Geography) and component 2 (Human Geography): Coastal Systems and Landscapes; Hazards; Changing Places; and Global Systems and Governance. There is a field trip at the end of Y12 in order to prepare for the NEA, the individual investigation that each student writes using data they have collected during the field trip.

In Y13 the units you will study are a mix of component 1 (Physical Geography) and component 2 (Human Geography): Water and Carbon Cycles and Population and the Environment. The individual investigation is completed during Y13.

Subject Overview		
Half Term	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn 1	Coastal Systems and Landscapes Hazards	Water and Carbon Cycles NEA
Autumn 2	Coastal Systems and Landscapes	Water and Carbon Cycles

	Hazards	NEA
Spring 1	Coastal Systems and Landscapes Hazards	Water and Carbon Cycles Population and the Environment NEA
Spring 2	Global Systems and Governance Changing Places	Population and the Environment NEA
Summer 1	Global Systems and Governance Changing Places	Consolidation of component 1 and 2
Summer 2	Global Systems and Governance Changing Places NEA	Consolidation of component 1 and 2

How is the Course Assessed?

Component 1 (Physical Geography): 2 hour 30 minute exam worth 40%

Component 2 (Human Geography): 2 hour 30 minute exam worth 40%



Component 3 (Non Examined Assessment): An individual research project 3,000-4,000 words in length. Worth 20%

Assessment Objectives:

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; and
- Construct arguments and draw conclusions (20–30%)

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

Podcasts

- Costing the Earth- There are some great podcasts here to pick from on a wide variety of geographical issues.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006r4wn/episodes/player> (many topics including climate change, carbon, urban greening, deforestation, alternative powers, plastics (etc)
- Royal Geographical Society – ‘Ask the Geographer podcasts’ - <https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/ask-the-expert-podcasts/>= A fantastic set of podcasts to keep A Level studies up to date with the latest geographical research
- <https://eternalexploration.wordpress.com/2016/01/04/top-10-podcasts-for-geography-students/> - This has a number of different links to geography podcast, specifically targeted to Geography

Books

If you are into reading both fiction and non fictions, why not try some Geographically themed books/magazines:

- Prisoners of Geography by Tim Marshall

- Factfulness by Hans Rosling
- The Almighty Dollar by Dharshini David
- A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson
- Earth The Power of the Planet by Ian Stewart and John Lynch
- I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai
- No One Is Too Small To Make A Difference by Great Thunberg
- The Revenge of Geography by Robert D. Kaplan
- Geography Review Magazines

Geographical Documentaries

There are some great geographical documentaries which will help develop your general geographical knowledge and understanding and help you see what an amazing world we live in. The following are all available on IPLAYER:

- David Attenborough Box Sets- there are 9 amazing box sets available on iplayer from David Attenborough exploring our amazing world.
- The Americas with Simon Reeve
- Simon Reeve around the World
- Britain Underwater: Fighting the floods
- Lumley's Hidden Caribbean: Havana to Haiti

