

Geography



GCSE Content:

Geography is about developing a sense of place and an understanding of the world in which we live.

The geography course allows students to:

- increase their locational knowledge - where places are and how they are interconnected,
- develop their fieldwork and geographical skills,
- gain an understanding of place, processes and UK geography,
- understand physical geography through examining geomorphic processes, the landscape, and changing weather and climate patterns,
- gain an understanding of people and the environment, processes and interactions, global ecosystems and biodiversity along with resources and their management, and,
- gain an understanding of human geography, processes and change, cities and urban society along with global economic development issues.

The course provides students with the opportunity to study a dynamic subject within which the patterns and issues are constantly changing. It is an excellent subject for students who wish to develop an understanding of the issues within today's world.

Examination Board: AQA

Mode of Assessment:

Linear system comprising of the following:

Question papers are un-tiered.

Questions will be a mix of multiple choice, short structured responses and extended writing. The grading system is now based on a numbering system. The grades range from 1-9. The new grade 4 is roughly equivalent to the current grade C and the new grade 7 is roughly equivalent of the current grade A.

There are three written exam papers, which all take place at the end of Year 11.

Unit 1: Living with the Physical Environment. This comprises 35% of the total assessment. The candidate answers five questions out of a possible seven, two of which are compulsory. The questions cover the following topics:

- The Challenge of Natural Hazards which includes: tectonic hazards, tropical storms, extreme weather in the UK and climate change.
- Physical Landscapes in the UK which includes: coastal landscapes, river landscapes and glacial landscapes.
- The Living World which includes: ecosystems, tropical rainforests, hot deserts and cold environments.

Unit 2: Challenges in the Human Environment. This comprises 35% of the total assessment. The candidate will answer questions on the following topics:

- Urban issues and challenges.
- The changing economic world.
- The challenge of resource management including: food, water and energy.

Unit 3: Geographical Applications. This comprises 30% of the total assessment.

Section A – Issue Evaluation.

Students will be provided with compulsory structured questions surrounding a particular theme, which leads to an extended writing task based on pre-release. A Sources Booklet will be issued to students in advance. The theme arises from the subject content of Units 1 or 2 but may extend beyond it through the use of resources. The theme could combine human and physical aspects.

Section B – Fieldwork.

Students will be given compulsory questions based on their inquiry work and the use of fieldwork materials in an unfamiliar context.

AS and A Level Introduction

Geography has always been one of the most popular choices at both A level and university. Having undergone some significant changes the course has introduced some new topics, and offers students more choice, whilst encouraging the acquisition of a broad range of skills along with lifelong learning.

The study of Geography provides the opportunity to look at contemporary and topical issues which can be related to the world in which we live. It emphasises the changes that are taking place at a range of differing scales and helps us develop an understanding of the relationships between people and their environment.

Included in our new-A level course is a three-day residential fieldtrip to the Cranedale Field Study Centre near Malton in North Yorkshire. The preferred minimum requirement for a student to pursue this course is a grade C in GCSE Geography.



Course Content

Exam Board - AQA

AS Level (Linear Course)

Component 1: Physical geography and people and the environment.

Pupils answer one question from each section.

Section A:

- 1) Water and carbon cycles or,
- 2) Hot desert environments and their margins or,
- 3) Coastal systems and landscapes

Section B:

- 1) Hazards or,
- 2) Contemporary urban environments

Examination

- 50% of AS
- 80 Marks
- Written exam (1hr 30mins)



Component 2: Human Geography and Geography fieldwork investigation.

Pupils have a choice of answering either question 1 or 2 in section A but must answer all questions in Section B.

Section A:

- 1) Global systems and global governance, or
- 2) Changing places

Section B:

- 1) Geography fieldwork investigation, and
- 2) Geographical skills

Examination

- 50% of AS
- 80 Marks
- Written exam (1hr 30mins)

Question types:

- Multiple choice, and
- Short answer, and
- Levels of response

A Level (2 Year Linear Course)

Component 1: Physical Geography

Pupils must answer the following:

Section A:



- All questions on water and carbon cycles

Section B

- 1) Hot desert environments and their margins, or
- 2) Coastal systems and landscapes

Section C:

- 1) Hazards, or
- 2) Ecosystems under stress, or
- 3) Cold environments

Component 2: Human Geography

Pupils must answer the following:

Section A:

- All questions on Global Systems and Global Governance

Section B:

- All questions on Changing Places

Section C:

- 1) Contemporary urban environments, or
- 2) Population and the environment, or
- 3) Resource Security

