Geography

Course Overview

Studying Geography at A level provides a selection of new, interesting topics not covered at GCSE level and allows you to go into greater depth in some key elements previously studied. It covers 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.

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. You will be encouraged to frame your own questions using higher level thinking skills and show your grasp of complex issues through your independent geographical enquiry. Fieldwork will be an essential part of your A-Level course.

Course Structure

You will follow the AQA Geography A level course. The two-year course covers both physical and human geography.

Physical geography - Water and carbon cycles, Coasts, Hazards and Ecosystems under threat.

Human geography - Global systems & governance, Changing places, Contemporary urban environments.

Fieldwork & skills

A minimum of 4 days fieldwork were students will collect their own primary data and investigate a variety of locations both human and physical geography. Students will build on their skills from GCSE and develop further in cartography, graph, statistics and IT skills.

At the end of Year 12, you will begin to undertake your independent coursework, a geographical enquiry based on your own question or hypothesis to investigate. This task is worth 20% of your A-level grade. Final assessment is in the form of 2 examinations which form 80% of your final grade.

Where does this course lead?

Geography is a broad-based subject which provides lots of opportunities for future progression. The subject equips you with a wide range of transferable skills and leads to strong academic and career prospects. As a subject it is highly regarded by universities and employers.

Geography is an obvious choice for careers in sustainability and green issues, urban regeneration, energy supply, town planner, managing the effects of hazards and climate change.

Geography also provides career choices in law, human rights, international relations or welfare, teaching, and government. As the course also develops analytical skills, research and problem solving this opens up careers in data analyst, surveyor, communications and project managing.



Entry Requirements:

Ideally you should have a grade 6 or above in GCSE Geography. A Geography GCSE is not essential to study Geography, but we would like a good result in GCSE English & Maths (Grades 9-5) if you are new to the subject.