

HUMANITIES

Geography



Examination Board: Edexcel
Subject Leader(s): Ms C Holland



Course Structure

Unit	Topics/Unit Title	Assessment	A Level(%)
9GEO/01	Paper 1 (Physical Paper)	2hr 15mins exam worth 105 marks	30%
9GEO/01	Paper 2 (Human Paper)	2hr 15mins exam worth 105 marks	30%
9GEO/03	Paper 3 (Synoptic Paper)	2hr 15mins exam worth 70 marks	20%
9GEO/04	Independent Investigation	Non-examined. Submitted coursework	20%

What does the course involve?

Geography will excite your mind, challenge perceptions and stimulate your investigative and analytical skills. This is an issues-based approach to studying geography, enabling you to explore and evaluate contemporary geographical questions and issues such as the consequences of globalisation, responses to hazards, water insecurity and climate change. You will be encouraged to make links between different geographical themes, ideas and concepts through synoptic themes embedded in the compulsory content

Students will be required to take part in fieldwork in Y12 which will take place in the UK for between 2+4 days. The cost of this will depend on the length and location of the fieldwork and the number of students on the course.

Paper 1: Physical Geography

You will study tectonic processes and hazards; coastal landscapes and change; the water cycle and water insecurity and the carbon cycle and energy security.

The physical topics allow you to explore the world around us, investigate the processes that change our planet and appreciate what the world can be deadly as well as beautiful.

Paper 2: Human Geography

The Human topics allow you to explore the impact humans are having on the planet and on each other while considering the vast differences between countries.

You will study globalisation; regeneration; superpowers and health, human rights and intervention.

Paper 3: Synoptic Paper

Throughout the course we will be incorporating 3 synoptic elements; players, attitudes and actions and futures and uncertainties. The exam paper will be based on a geographical issue within a place based context that links to the 3 synoptic elements and is based around two or more of the compulsory topics. This is a chance to explore the lines between all aspects of geography.

Coursework: Independent Investigation

You will lead your independent investigation- choosing the area that you study. The main criteria is that it links to an area of the course specification. You will be responsible (under guidance) for the aim, data collection and analysis of this data. This is an exciting aspect as it allows you to investigate a topic that interests you rather than being told what to do.

Further Study/Employment Prospects

If you wish to attend university, geography is considered, and accepted as, a science subject. If you specialise in geography at higher education (or use your geography A Level as a stepping stone to study geology at university) you could find yourself doing things like charting oil wells or planning the cities of the future.

Geography is about the interaction between people and our planet and as such this fascinating subject is valid for a number of different career paths. Geographers are renowned for the wide range of skills they bring to any profession.

“Geography is inherently multidisciplinary in a world that increasingly values people who have the skills needed to work across the physical and social sciences. Geographers get to learn data analysis, and geographic information systems. They can turn maps from a two-dimensional representation of a country’s physical contours into a tool that illustrates social attributes or attitudes: not just where people live, but how, what they think and how they vote. They learn about the physics of climate change, or the interaction of weather events and flood risk, or the way people’s behaviour is influenced by the space around them. All these are not just intrinsically interesting and valuable. They also encourage ways of seeing and thinking that make geographers eminently employable, which is why, according to the latest information from the Higher Education Careers Services Unit, only 5.8% of geography graduates were still job-hunting six months after they graduated, against an average of 7.3%.” - The Guardian, 13th August, 2015

A level geography is a facilitating subject that top universities are looking for.

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 (or above in English and a good GCSE in Humanities (Grade 5 or above).

- An interest in the world and the environment and how people use and change them.
- A willingness to take part in fieldwork.
- A willingness to take part in discussion work and a readiness to share your opinion.
- Reasonably good at maths as there is some use of data and analysis.
- Reasonably good at English so that you can express your ideas clearly in writing.