

Geography

A LEVEL - AQA

What are the aims of the course?

Students will study core human and physical geography. In each area of study, students will consider the values and attitudes of decision makers, consider their own values and attitudes to the issues being studied and support their learning of ideas through the study of specific case studies. Candidates will also develop a variety of geographical skills which will broaden and deepen existing knowledge and be employed with a greater degree of independence.

Students are also required to undertake preparatory, investigative work in the field in order to be able to produce a fieldwork investigation.

What does it involve?

Component 1 – Physical Geography

- Section A: Water and Carbon Cycles
- Section B: Hot Desert Systems and Landscapes or Coastal Systems and Landscapes or Glacial Systems and Landscapes
- Section C: Hazards or Ecosystems Under Stress

Component 2 – Human Geography

- Section A: Global Systems and Global Governance
- Section B: Changing Places
- Section C: Contemporary Urban Environments or Population and the Environment or Resource Security

Component 3 – Geographical Fieldwork Investigation

Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.

How is it assessed?

Component 1 **Physical Geography**

Written examination
2 hours 30 minutes
120 marks
40% of A Level

Component 2 **Human Geography**

Written examination
2 hours 30 minutes
120 marks
40% of A Level

Component 3 **Geographical Fieldwork Investigation**

3000 – 4000 words fieldwork write up
60 marks
20% of A Level
Marked by teachers
Moderated by AQA

Are there any specific entry requirements?

Students who wish to take Geography in the Sixth Form should have gained at least a Level 6 at IGCSE/GCSE Geography.

Why is it a useful qualification?

Geography is a subject for our times. It is inherently multi-disciplinary in a world that increasingly values people who have the skills needed to work across the physical and social sciences.

Geographers acquire multiple skills such as data analysis and the ability to understand 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 they think and how they vote. They learn about the physics of climate change, the interaction of weather events and flood risk, and the way people's behaviour is influenced by the space around them.

Geography encourages 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.

