

Geography

Why study Geography?

"Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future" - Michael Palin

This is an important era to be studying Geography. This A Level course looks at current affairs such as global migration, natural hazards, climate change and social and environmental issues. Learners enjoy the wide variety of themes which help us have a better understanding of the world around us, and learn by studying case studies from several countries around the world.

Entry requirements

Achieving a grade C or above in GCSE Geography will guarantee you a place on this course. If you don't achieve a grade C, come to have a chat.

Course details and assessment format

AS (2 units)

Unit 1: Changing Landscapes (2 hour exam, 24% of the qualification)

Learners will study coastal processes and landscapes and tectonic hazards, namely earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. There will be an opportunity for a fieldwork day to study the processes occurring along the Anglesey coastline.

Unit 2: Changing Places ((1 hour 30 minutes exam, 16% of the qualification)

Learners will study human geography in this unit, by looking at our local rural areas and contrasting urban areas. There will be an opportunity for a fieldwork day to study the quality of life on Anglesey. Questions will be asked about both of these fieldwork experiences in this exam paper.

A Level (3 units)

Unit 3: Global Systems and Global Governance

(2 hour exam, 24% of the qualification)

A study of the water and carbon cycles as a physical Geography unit, along with an unit on two current global challenges, namely migration and governance of the Earth's oceans. This paper also includes an extended synoptic question, on a 21st Century challenge – this requires the learners to use their general understanding of the subject.

Unit 4: Contemporary Themes in Geography

(2 hour exam, 16% of the qualification)

A study of one of the most contemporary and most important Geographical issues, namely Energy Challenges and Dilemmas which looks at climate change and how it can be solved. There is also an unit on weather and climate, which looks at a variety of climates around the world. The learners will also answer an extended question on tectonic hazards, which is based on the same content as Unit 1.

Unit 5: Independent Investigation (Coursework, 20% of the qualification)

An opportunity for the learners to choose a theme which is associated with any topic in the A Level course. Learners are expected to collect primary and secondary data and produce a 3000-4000 word written report.

Skills which are developed and possible progression

As well as developing an understanding of the world around us, this subject develops your evaluating skills, your critical thinking, your independent investigational skills and your ability to work as part of a team e.g. on fieldwork days. It develops writing and communication skills, and practical skills which are relevant to a variety of jobs. Geographical jobs include cartography, planning and surveying, environmental managers, international aid workers, teachers, tourist officers or transport designers.

"Geography- The subject is very interesting and looks at a variety of different things like the climate and volcanoes. The coursework also gives you the freedom to research a topic of your choice."

Ifan Jones

