

Geography

Examination board: Cambridge International



Why study Geography at A Level?

Geography is an engaging, contemporary subject that explores the environment, how places differ, how physical systems work and about how people interact with the world. Geography is about real-world events, their impacts and how we can manage challenges. Geography looks at the 'big ideas' in the world and how people strive to make our world a better place to live in. We potentially face dramatic changes to our world through climate change. Learning about climate change helps us make informed judgements about the challenges of managing this complex issue.

The course teaches pupils about how trade and economies operate in a globalised world and how to evaluate the economic choices being made about our future. In this way, geography is a rigorous academic subject which helps us, through the integrated nature of the discipline, to examine complexity and to think critically.

Geography examines the awe-inspiring natural processes of our beautiful planet, helping us to appreciate and value its landscapes and ecosystems.

What's on the course?

Human Geography (25%)

- Population and migration
- Water resources and management
- Urban areas and management

Physical Geography (25%)

- Hydrology, river processes and hazards
- Atmospheric processes and global climate change
- Earth processes and mass movements

Global Environments (25%)

- Hazardous Environments
- Arid Environments

Global Themes (25%)

- Climate Change Impacts and Governance
- Trade, Aid and Tourism

How is it assessed?

4 x 1hr 30min exams, one for each component of the course.

There are a mixture of short answer data response question and questions requiring extended essay answers.

The essay marking criteria rewards analysis and evaluation rather than just knowledge and understanding, which will suit the critical thinking abilities of our pupils.

What do Geography pupils go on to do?

A Level Geography is highly respected by universities and employers for the grounding it gives in both data analysis and constructing arguments. It provides an excellent training in the kinds of transferable skills required in many workplaces and professions. According to UCAS, Geography at university is one of the broadest subject areas with one of the highest employability rates of all undergraduate degrees. Geographers are highly employable and follow some of the most varied career paths of any subject.

Further reading

'Factfulness' by Hans Rosling

'Prisoners of Geography' by Tim Marshall

'Not the End of the World' by Hannah Ritchie

'Africa is not a country' by Dipo Faloyin