

GEOGRAPHY



What is Geography

Geography is the study of Earth's landscapes, peoples, places and environments. It is, quite simply, about the world in which we live. Geography is unique in bridging the social sciences (human geography) with the natural sciences (physical geography).

Why is Geography important?

With the growing importance of issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation, spatial epidemiology and inequalities, geography is one of the most relevant courses you could choose to study. Geography courses are popular, demonstrated by strong completion rates and positive student feedback. Geographers are also highly employable and collectively receive competitive graduate salaries. Above all, geographers have potential to be well-informed global citizens, using their unique combinations of knowledge and skills to make a positive difference in the world.

How will the course be taught?

The course has 2 examination papers. Physical geography and Human geography. The course has been designed at The Grange to be taught by 2 specialist teachers, each with a focus on one of the two papers. Equal teaching time is allocated for each paper. Teaching involves discussions, note taking, decision making, analysis of data, alongside independent study by the students. Independent study has a strong focus within geography and the students are encouraged to gain wider knowledge and understanding through their own personal research.

How much of the course is coursework?

The pupils are also expected to complete a Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) whereby they are expected to choose a topic that interests them but is also included in the AQA geography specification. As part of the independent study element of the course, the pupils gather their own data and write up their project/dissertation with generic guidance from the department.

How is the course resourced?

The pupils will be given an A level geography textbook, an exercise book and revision materials along with access to web-based resources and paper revision guide booklets to assist the pupils in completing different aspects of the course.

What is the format of the course?

The course is broken down into 2 examination papers and an NEA. The examination is broken down into both a physical and a human geography paper. Each examination paper takes two hours and thirty minutes and accounts for 40% of the marks. Finally, the non-examined assessment (NEA) coursework component accounts for 20% of the qualification and can be completed between Spring of Year 12 and Autumn of Year 13.

How can I get better at Geography?

The main way that pupils can improve their understanding of geography is to read. In the department we have a whole host of geographical magazines that will help broaden the pupil's knowledge in geography. Alongside this we have an array of literature on teams and Firefly that the pupils can access in both study periods and at home. Experience has shown us that pupils who spend time on past examination papers greatly improve their examination techniques, timings and have a stronger grasp on the key concepts examined in Year 13.

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What work is involved?

To study A level Geography, you need to have an enquiring and open mind. Geography is a study of the world around us and you need to be aware of issues worldwide, not just in the UK. You need to be able to debate issues such as migration and to think about them from political and social perspectives as well. Your opinion is important, but you also need to think about debates from someone else's perspective. Reading newspapers and articles to keep your subject knowledge up to date is vital. A basic grasp of Math's is required and the ability to interpret graphs and analyse them is fundamental, along with basic maps skills. There is a lot of information and new vocabulary to learn, so you'll need a good memory. You will learn case studies on specific topics, and you will develop the skill of writing longer answers clearly and succinctly.

What are typical A level subject choices along with Geography?

Geography can sit as either a humanity or a science subject and so lends itself to many configurations. Below are ideas of subject combinations.

Mathematics, Physics Chemistry, Science, ICT, Geology	+ Geography	Environmental Science, Geology, Meteorology, Geophysics, Surveying, Oceanography, Hydrology, Teaching
Mathematics, Business Studies, Economics, ICT, Languages, Computing,	+ Geography	Banking, Town & Country Planning, Insurance, Housing, Travel & Tourism, Journalism, Teaching
Mathematics, Art, Design, Art & Design, ICT, Technology, Geology	+ Geography	Architecture, Cartography, Surveying, Graphic Design, Teaching
Biology, Chemistry, Geology Physical Education, Science	+ Geography	Environmental Health, Recreational & Institutional Management, Environmental Science, Teaching, Environmental Management
Business Studies, ICT, Psychology, Economics, Sociology	+ Geography	Social Work, Retail Management, Personal Management, Teaching
English, Languages, Law, History, ICT, Critical Thinking, Sociology, Media Studies	+ Geography	Library Archives, Publishing, Law, Journalism, Social Work, Teaching

What can you do with an A level in Geography?

For students looking to continue their studies at university, there are more than 80 universities offering Geography courses. This allows you as a student to study elements of the subject that interest you, specialising in what you enjoy most. If you opt for a BA degree you are more likely to focus on elements of 4 Human Geography, and with a BSc degree, you can study more Physical Geography. Students may decide not to go directly into a Geography degree but may decide to study related subjects. Recently students have gone on to study Oceanography, Urban Planning, Architecture and International Relations at university. Geography is also sought after by those offering apprenticeships due to the decision making and analytical skills it encourages students to develop. Students in the past have gone on to train in-house with local Hydrology companies or with the Environment Agency.

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What does a geography degree involve?

Geography is the scientific study of the Earth's physical features and how humans affect and are affected by these features. A geography degree teaches you about the natural and physical sciences and provides you with analytical and mathematical skills. Geography courses also teach students how to study, interpret and create maps. Students who receive a degree in geography can work in different fields of research, planning and consulting, using their knowledge of geography to collect and analyse data.

What can you do with a degree in Geography?

In this wide-ranging, interdisciplinary major, students develop essential transferrable skills in research, Math, statistics, IT, and data analysis. They learn to work with databases, spreadsheets, computer cartography software, and GIS technologies. Students leave the program with extensive experience managing their own time, working with teams, thinking creatively, and solving problems—all of which set them up for success in a wide range of careers. As with students in any field, what's next for a geography graduate depends on their personal interests, academic strengths, previous work experience, and professional goals. But equally important is the kind of geography they prefer. Students of physical geography tend to favour jobs in the natural sciences, exploring all aspects of the earth's physical properties and processes. Those in human geography, on the other hand, skew towards the social sciences. They often end up in jobs that focus on issues related to human cultures or communities.

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