

Geography

About the course

Geography is the study of physical and human environments and how they interact together. The course deals with a range of topical global issues and students develop an interest and concern for the environment, current affairs, people and places. It is a course that is relevant to the students' lives and experiences and gives the opportunity to carry out practical work outdoors as well as classwork. It combines topics in physical, human and environmental issues and develops a range of geographical skills which will broaden and deepen existing knowledge.

The A Level course consists of three examined components and a fieldwork investigation:

Component 1: Changing Landscapes and Changing Places

Section A - Changing Landscapes

Section B - Changing places

Exam: 1 hour 45 minutes, 20.5% of qualification

Component 2: Global Systems and Global Governance

Section A - Global systems

Section B - Global governance, change and challenges

Section C - 21st century challenges

Exam: 2 hours, 27.5% of qualification

Component 3: Contemporary Themes in Geography

Section A - Tectonic hazards

Section B - i) Ecosystems

ii) Economic growth and challenge

Exam: 2 hours 15 minutes, 32% of qualification

Component 4: Independent 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 of the above themes. All students must complete four days of fieldwork in various locations during their course and some of the data and techniques from these days could be used by individuals in their own investigations. 3000 - 4000 word investigation



Unexpected fun and lots of trips! It is learning about things that matter.

Danielle, Year 12

How it will be assessed

The three external exams are assessed by mostly structured data response questions and some extended response questions. The exams comprise 80% of the final mark.

The fieldwork investigation is internally assessed and comprises 20% of the final mark.

What it prepares you for

Students develop skills in applying knowledge, approaches to enquiry, description, analysis, evaluation and interpretation of evidence. These skills are transferable to a variety of different working environments (e.g. marketing, banking, the Civil Service and sustainability organisation) and are highly valued by employers.

In higher education, a wide variety of degrees are open to successful Geography students, including Earth and Environmental Sciences, Geology, Anthropology, Planning and International Relations.

