

**A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY**  
**(AQA specification)**

The Geography course uses a variety of contemporary topics to examine the links between people and the environment. Geographers become aware of one of the key concerns of humanity - that our planet is exceptionally complex and that its current state depends on systems which are held in natural balance and which are on the brink of encountering permanent change. Geography encourages the development of many skills. These include decision making and logic, statistical analysis, GIS, use of satellite imagery, research, map work, fieldwork and essay writing. As a result, the subject leads to a variety of careers and has one of the highest rates of graduate employability.

**Year 1**

The first year looks at both Physical and Human geography.

The **Physical** Geography topics covered are:

- Coastal Systems & Landscapes: Coastal processes, landforms and coastal management
- Hazards: The causes, impacts and management of volcanic, seismic and storm hazards

The **Human** geography topic to be studied is Changing Places: An in-depth study of place theory and exemplification of how places are changing through two in-depth case studies.

Students will complete fieldwork across the two years, with a focus on both Human and Physical geography.

**Year 2**

Paper One covers **Physical** Geography and further builds upon subject knowledge developed in the first year. It is examined by a 2 ½ hour written paper and is worth 40% of the A Level grade. The three topics studied are:

- Water and Carbon Cycles: The relationship between the water cycle, carbon cycle and climate
- Coastal Systems & Landscapes: Coastal processes, landforms and coastal management
- Hazards: The causes, impacts and management of volcanic, seismic and storm hazards

Paper Two covers **Human** Geography and once again develops further the knowledge students gain in Year 1. It is examined by a 2½ hour written paper and is worth 40% of the A Level grade. The three topics studied are:

- Global Systems and Global Governance: Impacts of, and responses to, globalisation and the management of the 'global commons', with a focus on Antarctica.
- Changing Places: The nature and importance of places and the dynamics of changing places
- Population and environment: exploring the relationships between key aspects of physical geography and population

Students will also complete an individual geographical investigation (NEA) based on a question or issue relating to any part of the A Level specification content. This 3000 – 4000 word investigation is internally marked by teachers and is then externally moderated by the exam board. It is worth 20% of the A Level grade.

**Fieldwork**

Students are required to undertake fieldwork during the two year A Level course. These visits will give a solid grounding in the fieldwork skills necessary for the course. Over the years, our international fieldtrips have always been hugely popular with students. The Sicily fieldtrip in 2017 and Iceland in 2018 were hugely successful and the department is looking forward to running the Iceland trip again soon in March 2023.

**GCSE requirements:**     *English Language – grade 4*  
   *Geography – grade 5 (if taken)*

*In total, at least grade 5 in **two** literate subjects*