

Geography

Pathway 2

Course description:

The world we live in is changing. Geography allows you to see why and how it is changing. It can enhance communication skills, literacy and numeracy, IT literacy, spatial awareness, team working, problem solving and environmental awareness. You will study a wide range of global issues both in the classroom and through fieldwork. Geography is an interesting and popular subject at A level.

Qualifications required:

- In line with the entry requirements for a Pathway 2 subject.
- Grade 5 and 6 in Geography and English Language. This combination of grades can be either way round.

Aims of the course:

- Develop and apply your understanding of geographical concepts and processes to understand and interpret our changing world.
- Carry out research and out-of-classroom work including fieldwork.
- Use a range of skills and techniques, including the use of maps and images at different scales.

Future prospects:

- Geography can open doors.
- Further education – geographers can go on to study higher level courses
- Employment – geographers can go into wide range of jobs including: Advertising, Education, Marketing, Finance, Law and retailing, town and country planning, sustainable technologies and energy among many other areas.

Student feedback:

“Geography is challenging because we are doing new things compared to GCSE but it is really interesting.”

“I really enjoy the fieldwork aspect and going to visit different places.”

“I enjoyed Geography, but I enjoy the challenge of A Level more.”

“I really enjoy the way Geography relates to the real world and the new examples in the news everyday.”

Subject Teachers:

Mr Fowler (Head of Geography), Mrs Codner and Mr Shackleton

Geography

Features of the course:

- Tectonic Processes and Hazards
- Landscape Systems, Processes and Change: Coastal Landscapes and Change
- The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
- The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security
- Globalisation
- Shaping Places: Regenerating Places
- Superpowers
- Global Development and Connections: Migration, Identity and Sovereignty
- Synoptic Investigation
- Coursework: Independent Investigation

Year 12 Topics and Coursework

- **Physical Geography**
- Tectonic Processes and Hazards
- Landscape Systems, Processes and Change: Coastal Landscapes and Change
- **Human Geography**
- Globalisation
- Shaping Places: Regenerating Places

Coursework: Independent Investigation
20% of the qualification
70 marks

The investigation report is internally assessed and externally moderated. The student will produce a written report of 3000–4000 words.

The student defines a question or issue for investigation, relating to the compulsory or optional content. The topic may relate to any aspect of geography contained within the specification.

- The student's investigation will incorporate fieldwork data (collected individually or as part of a group) and own research and/or secondary data.
- The fieldwork, which forms the focus and context of the individual investigation, may be either human, physical or integrated physical-human.
- The investigation report will evidence independent analysis and evaluation of data, presentation of data findings and extended writing.

Year 13 Topics and Examinations

- **Physical Geography**
- The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
- The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security
- **Human Geography**
- Superpowers
- Global Development and Connections: Migration, Identity and Sovereignty
- **Synoptic Investigation**

Paper 1 – All Physical Geography Topics

Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes
30% of the qualification
105 marks

Paper 2 – All Human Geography Topics

Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes
30% of the qualification
105 marks

Paper 3 – Synoptic Investigation

Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes
20% of the qualification
70 marks

The specification contains three synoptic themes:

- Players
- Attitudes and actions
- Futures and uncertainties.

The synoptic investigation will be based on a geographical issue within a place-based context that links to the three synoptic themes and is rooted in two or more of the compulsory content areas.

