

A Level Geography – Subject Information Sheet

Why choose A Level Geography?

“Geography is a living, breathing subject, constantly adapting itself to change. It is dynamic and relevant. For me geography is a great adventure with a purpose.” Michael Palin (Former RGS-IBG President)

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). Human geography concerns the understanding of the dynamics of cultures, societies and economies, and physical geography concerns the understanding of the dynamics of physical landscapes and the environment.

Geography puts this understanding of social and physical processes within the context of places and regions - recognising the great differences in cultures, political systems, economies, landscapes and environments across the world, and the links between them. Understanding the causes of differences and inequalities between places and social groups underlie much of the newer developments in human geography.

Geography is, in the broadest sense, an education for life and for living.

What other subjects would work well with A Level Geography?

A Level Geography WITH...	Potential careers...
...Art & Design Technology	Advertising, architecture, cartography, landscape design
...Science	Agriculture, environmental health, estate management, nature conservation
...History	Archaeology, law, museums, publishing
...Modern Languages	Business, overseas marketing, leisure and tourism
...Maths	Civil engineering, meteorology, mining, navigation, photography
...various subjects	Leisure services, sport and recreation management, social and youth work, surveying, transport services, banks, building societies, business, civil service, police, army, health service

Want to find out more? Here are some useful websites and resources to use.

<https://www.rgs.org/>

<https://geographyrevisionalevel.weebly.com/>

<https://timeforgeography.co.uk/>

Description of the course

Exam Board: Edexcel

Paper 1 – Dynamic Landscapes (30%)

This 2hr 15mins paper tests students on the understanding and application of physical geography. Topics include:

- Tectonic processes and hazards
- Coastal landscapes and change
- The water cycle and water insecurity
- The carbon cycle and energy insecurity
- Climate change futures

Paper 2 – Dynamic Places (30%)

This 2hr 15mins paper tests students on the understanding and application of a variety of human geography topics including:

- Globalisation
- Regenerating places
- Superpowers
- Migration, identity and sovereignty

Paper 3 – Synoptic Paper (20%)

This 2hr 15mins paper tests students on compulsory synoptic themes including:

- Players – who are the stakeholders involved
- Attitudes and uncertainties – people with differing viewpoints and how this influences actions
- Futures and uncertainties – how geographical decisions will affect the future

NEA – Non-examination assessment (NEA) (20%)

A compulsory component including 4 days of fieldwork followed by a 3000-4000 word piece of coursework. Your coursework will focus on your own investigation from start to finish and involve both human and physical elements including:

- Data collection
- Data interpretation – analysis and conclusions
- Evaluative techniques
- Secondary data research

Educational Progression and Career Opportunities.

What possible careers or degree subjects would A Level Geography be useful for?

According to the Royal Geographical Society, Geography graduates have some of the highest rates of graduate employment.

Geography is great for any kind of career that involves the environment, planning, or collecting and interpreting data. Popular careers for people with geography qualifications include: town or transport planning, surveying, conservation, sustainability, waste and water management, environmental planning, tourism, and weather forecasting.

The army, police, government, research organisations, law and business world also love the practical research skills that geographers develop.

Because geographers learn about human and population development, geography can be useful for jobs in charity and international relations too.