

A Level

Geography

AQA



Course Content

There are many good reasons for studying Geography:

- You will explore our exciting world and our dynamic societies, environments, landscapes and cultures.
- You will use your knowledge and understanding of our planet to tackle big issues such as environmental responsibility, global interdependence and hazard management.
- You will develop essential skills for university and future employment including literacy, numeracy, ICT, problem solving, teamwork, thinking skills and enquiry.
- Geography combines well with both arts and science subjects.
- You will have many opportunities to conduct your own research by attending a range of field courses in diverse locations. Recent destinations include Snowdonia, Cornwall, California, Morocco, Iceland and Uganda.

Methods of Teaching

Geography lessons feature a wide range of teaching and learning techniques including decision-making exercises, discussions and debates, textual analysis and independent research using interactive resources.

We offer a wide range of extension opportunities including involvement with the Hampshire Geographical Association and the Cambridge University HE+ scheme. All students will participate in non-residential field courses in the local area and residential field courses are offered in the UK and overseas.

Methods and Patterns of Assessment

Year 1 - 100% of the 1-year AS course is assessed in two 1 hour 30 minute exams. You will study:

Topic 1: Hazards - Study the tectonic and atmospheric hazards (volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunami and storms) to understand their origin and nature, impacts and management strategies.



Topic 2: Water and carbon cycles - Understand the magnitude and significance of these cycles at a variety of scales, their relevance to wider geography and their central importance for human populations.

Topic 3: Changing place; changing places - Examine the relationships and connections between people, the economy, society and the environment to explain why places are constantly changing.

Year 2 - 80% of the 2-year A level course is assessed in two 2 hour 30 minute exams. 20% is assessed through an independent fieldwork and research investigation. Topics include:

Topic 3: Dynamic physical landscapes

Explore earth surface processes, landforms and resultant landscapes; glacial, coastal or hot deserts.

Topic 4: Contested Planet

An investigation into global connectivity and governance to understand the ways in which global systems shape relationships between individuals, states and environments and their consequences

Options include the study of contemporary urban environments, population and the environment or resource security.

Geography

Financial Implications

There is a minimum requirement of two days of fieldwork for the AS course and four days of fieldwork for the A level course (approx. £10 per day). Optional residential fieldwork opportunities are also offered in the UK (approx. £350) as well as overseas fieldwork opportunities. The 2016 field courses are to Iceland (approx. £1000) and Uganda (approx. £2,250).

We offer a specialist journal at half price (£15 approx.) and you can join the Geographical Association (GA). Students are strongly encouraged to subscribe and attend the GA lectures and conferences.

Students will need to buy the course textbooks each year (approx. £30). There are copies for loan in the library.

Career Possibilities

According to the Royal Geographical Society: *'Employers and universities see geography as a robust academic subject rich in skills, knowledge and understanding. The Russell Group report (2011) names geography as one of the eight facilitating subjects'*

Geography prepares you for a wide range of university courses and careers through the development of knowledge and essential transferable skills.

Many A level geography students choose to study geography at university and with growing interest in issues such as climate change, energy security, migration, environmental degradation and social cohesion, geography is one of the most relevant degree courses you could choose to study. Therefore geography graduates are highly employable in a wide range of careers.

Minimum Entry Requirements

5 GCSE's at grade A* - C, including Maths and English.

An interest in Geography is essential but you do not need to have studied it at GCSE.

Apply online: www.psc.ac.uk/apply t: 01962 857555 e: admissions@psc.ac.uk

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