Geography

Examination Board: Edexcel

Geography is an extremely versatile subject; it can be classed as both a Science and an Art, making it very favourably looked upon by universities and employers alike. The Geography course equips students with a wide range of skills both analytical and discursive. Geographers are able to undertake fieldwork, analyse and evaluate data whilst also understanding both the human and physical world around them.

Fieldwork is an invaluable aspect of A-level Geography and students must complete four days of fieldwork; these four days will include both Human and Physical Geography. Past local destinations have included Birmingham and Carding Mill Valley, whilst there have been opportunities to venture further afield and undertake fieldwork in Morocco and Iceland.

The syllabus

In Year 1, students study a balance of Human and Physical Geography. In Human Geography they will study the complex process of globalisation and the influence which this has on economies and cultures worldwide, before considering how places are shaped through regeneration. Physical Geography will focus on Tectonic Process and Hazards, building upon knowledge from GCSE and extending this to see real world implications. Following on from this topic, girl will consider landscape systems, processes and change; they will focus on coastal landscapes.

Year 2 contains more of a focus on current affairs and ensures that students have a true awareness of what it means to be a global citizen. Students consider the dynamics of power and implications of this, before investigating global development and connections in Human Geography. Physical Geography is studied through water and carbon cycles, before considering both water and energy security worldwide.

Examinations will include short, factual answers which will rely on the use of key terms and data, alongside essay questions which by nature will be more analytical and evaluative.

Entry requirements

It is possible for students to undertake A-level Geography without having studied the topic for GCSE, however the courses are designed to complement one another and any student who has not completed GCSE Geography will be expected to undertake extra reading around the topic. Geography is an intellectually demanding course which relies on both literacy and numeracy skills in order to complete essays and analyse data. Therefore, we would expect students who have undertaken GCSE Geography to have achieved a Grade 5 or above, and all students to ideally have achieved Grade 5/B in English and Mathematics.