



# Geography

## Advanced Level



**Exam Board:** Edexcel

### Entry Requirements:

It is not necessary for students to have studied Geography at GCSE level. However, it would be an advantage as the GCSE course and A Level are very compatible. There will be some statistical work in modules and some ability in Maths would be beneficial.

*“A student who studies Geography will enjoy investigating current world issues, such as energy security, water conflicts and globalisation. They will have good ICT skills, especially using the internet for individual research into extreme weather, volcanoes and earthquakes. They will also enjoy fieldwork.”*

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### A Level

Geography is the study of the Earth's surface. It includes the study of the physical and human processes that shape the environment, places and patterns at the Earth's surface, and the people who live there. Most pupils enjoy the scope of the material they cover in Geography, the insights it can provide into understanding the world around us and the sheer contemporary nature of the issues it tackles.

### Course outline

Edexcel A Level Geography consists of three externally examined papers and one coursework component.

#### **Paper 1 - Physical Geography paper**

**Written examination: 2 hours. 30% of the qualification.**

- Tectonic Processes and Hazards
- Coastal landscapes
- The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
- The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security
- Climate Change Futures

#### **Paper 2 - Human Geography paper**

**Written examination: 2 hours. 30% of the qualification.**

- Globalisation
- Shaping Places
- Superpowers
- Global Development and Connections

#### **Paper 3 - Synoptic paper**

**Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes. 20% of the qualification**

This paper draws synoptically on content taken from compulsory parts of the course.

#### **Coursework - Independent Investigation**

**20% of the qualification**

Students investigate a question or issue relating to any aspect of geography contained within the specification. They will produce a written report of 3000–4000 words. It will be internally assessed and externally moderated.



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### What are the examinations like?

Each examination will include short open, open response and resource-linked questions. The three papers will also include 10-mark, 15-mark and 18-mark extended writing questions.

### Fieldwork opportunities

This is an essential part of A level Geography. As well as being a useful method of geographical research, it can also help in developing teamwork and leadership skills. Students have to complete four days of fieldwork which will be done as a residential trip in Wales run by the field study centre who are accredited to the Edexcel course. The data collected on this trip will be used for the students independent investigation which is 20% of the overall qualification.

### How will the subject help me in the future?

Taken with sciences or mathematics, geography supports applications for almost any science-based course like engineering, psychology, environmental sciences, oceanography and medicine; taken with humanities, geography supports an equally wide range of university courses such as business, law, media, politics and philosophy. In the past, many of our students have gone on to study geography at university and geography related courses, such as land management, city planning and geology.

The close link between the subject and the world around us makes for a long and varied list of related careers. Statistics show that compared with other subjects, geographers are among the most employable. This partly derives from the subject's versatility. Geographers are expected to have good communication skills; be able to work in a team; manage themselves; analyse their work; be numerate and literate; be computer literate; be spatially aware; be socially and environmentally aware.