

Advanced GCE in Geography

Board: AQA

Qualification: Advanced Level GCE in Geography

What is the course about?

This is a varied and contemporary course, which includes fieldwork and a broad foundation of physical and human processes.

Component 1: Physical Geography (40% A of A Level):

- Water and carbon cycles
- Coastal systems and landscapes
- Hazards

Component 2: Human Geography (40% of A Level):

- Global systems and global governance
- Changing places
- Contemporary urban environments

Component 3: Geographical Investigation (20% of A Level):

- Students complete an individual investigation which includes the collections of data in the field

How will I be assessed?

- Component 1: 2½ hour exam at the end of year 13. This will consist of a variety of question styles including multiple choice, short answers and extended prose
- Component 2: 2½ hour exam at the end of year 13. This will consist of a variety of question styles including multiple choice, short answers and extended prose
- Component 3: A coursework element, assessed by the completion of a 3,000 – 4,000 word report

What skills will I develop?

Geography is a subject which offers a diversity of skills that students will require at university level and for future employment. It is considered both a science and an arts subject, allowing students to develop a mix of transferable, technical and social skills which are valued by employers. Fieldwork and trips play an essential part of the course and students will be expected to complete a minimum of four days of fieldwork. Through this, they will develop investigative skills as well as data presentation and interpretation. Mathematical and statistical skills will also be developed both within data analysis in lessons and investigation in the field. Alongside these skills, students will develop effective communication skills, cartographic, ICT and research. They will be expected to work as part of a team as well as independently.

What goes well with Geography?

Geography is a good, broad ranging academic subject that fits easily alongside almost every subject combination. The physical aspects sit very closely alongside the science subjects, especially health and social sciences including Biology, Psychology and Sociology. It also fits well with other arts based subjects including English, History and Business.

Where can I go next?

Geography is a broad and relevant subject that means that it can be useful for a wide range of university degrees other than just Geography, and will help to keep options open. Students may enter a more traditionally geographic career including geology, coastal management, meteorology, surveying, cartography, teaching, rural or urban planning, hydrology and environmental sciences. However, due to the emphasis on decision making, globalisation and advancing technologies, many students also enter careers that appear unconnected including business management, marketing, advertising and politics, which are now popular career choices. According to the Royal Geographical Society, Geography graduates have some of the highest rates of graduate employment.

