



Kimberley
School



A Level
GEOGRAPHY

SIXTH FORM
HUMANITIES

What is Geography?

Geography is the study of the Earth's Places, People, Environments and Societies. It is the only subject whose main focus is the relationship between people and their environment. In other words Geography tries to make sense of the changing world we all live in. There are many types of Geography. At A-level we look at Physical, Environmental, Human, Social and Cultural and Political Geographies.

Who is it for?

Candidates for Geography will be interested in the World around them, how and why it is changing and their role in the world of the Future. Our students will learn in a number of ways and will develop a range of skills including ICT and handling data, decision making, fieldwork skills, presenting data, as well as looking at other cultures, political decisions, and discussing alternative solutions to problems. Candidates will normally have studied Geography at GCSE but this is not always essential.

What will I study?

Geography tries to make sense of the changing world in which we all live. There is a balance of Human and Physical Geography along with a range of option choices which we may be able to make. Topicality is the key, with real life issues being at the heart of the course. Each module of work has a current issue to study, for example how do we manage the future pressures on Cities? How might we live in a sustainable way in the future? Can we feed an ever-growing global population? Is global warming now inevitable and are the ways we can manage it?

Geographers develop a unique range of skills which are not only academically valuable but could be regarded as life skills. Geographers can ask questions, collect and analyse data and offer solutions to problems. You will learn outside the classroom, handle data, use maps and graphs, develop a range of mapping skills and support all of this with the use of ICT. However just as important are the skills of decision making, of understanding different cultures and political systems. Candidates will consider moral and ethical issues, multicultural societies, sustainability and the environmental challenges facing the planet in the 21st century.

In short, this course offers academic rigour and challenge combined with the study of contemporary issues of global citizenship with the ability to learn in a wide number of ways. This makes Geography fit with any combination of subjects.

We will organise fieldwork to support the compulsory requirements of the course. Possible locations in the UK will be the Yorkshire coast or South Wales, along with perhaps London and the Peak District and regular work in the Local area.



The course is made up of:

Component 1: Physical Geography

Water and carbon cycles – the global water cycle, drainage basins, carbon cycles and human impacts.

Coastal systems and landscapes – Distribution, coasts as natural systems, processes and landforms and management of coastal environments.

Hazards – tectonic and storm hazards. Hazard management

Component 2: Human Geography

Global systems and global governance – international trade, globalisation, responding to globalisation. Antarctic treaties.

Changing places – how does the concept of place influence our lives? Case studies of two contrasting places and how their social and cultural characteristics change over time.

Contemporary Urban environments – the rise of urbanisation, urban issues such as sustainability and urban climates. Social and economic issues in cities.

Component 2: Geographical Investigation

The independent investigation must:

- be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student individually to address aims, questions and/or hypotheses relating to any part of the specification content
- incorporate field data and/or evidence from field investigations
- draw on the student's own research and/or secondary data
- require the student to independently contextualise, analyse and draw conclusions
- involve presentation and analysis of data and findings, and extended writing.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 - Physical Geography

A 2 hour 30 min
exam worth 40%
of total A level

+

Unit 2 - Human Geography

A 2 hour 30 min
exam worth 40%
of total A level

+

Unit 3 - Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue 3 – 4 thousand words.
20% of total marks.

See Mr O Furniss (Subject Performance Leader), Miss K Saint Clair, Mr Straw, Miss Hammond, Mr Smith or Mr Clemmet for further details.

Download the specification from www.aqa.org.uk