Geography

COURSE OVERVIEW

Are you interested in the world around you? Do you question the effect of humans on the environment and how the environment affects the way we live our lives? Then geography is for you.

Topics in the course include:

- Tectonic Process and Hazards, Landscape Systems, Process and Change.
- The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security.
- Human Systems and Geopolitics: Superpowers; Migration, Identity and Sovereignty.

There is also an independent investigation where the student defines a question or issue for investigation, relating to the specification content, and collects their own fieldwork data as part of following a route to enquiry.

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS DEVELOPED

Geography is a unique subject as it combines well with both the arts and the sciences. Many geography specific skills will be developed including:

- knowledge of locations, places, processes and environments;
- analysis of complex people-environment interactions;
- understanding ways in which values, attitudes and circumstances have an impact on the relationships between people, place and environment;
- selecting, using and evaluating a range of quantitative and qualitative skills and approaches, and applying them;
- understanding the fundamental role of fieldwork as a tool to understand and generate new knowledge about the real world;
- planning, undertaking and evaluating fieldwork;
- applying geographical knowledge, understanding, skills and approaches in a rigorous way to a range of geographical questions and issues;
- using GIS to plot and interpret primary and secondary data

Qualification: **A-Level**

Awarding Body: **Pearson Edexcel**

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Examined assessment

3 papers, each 2 hours 15 mins in length

- Paper 1 – physical geography 30%
- Paper 2 – human geography 30%
- Paper 3 – synoptic paper 20%

Non-examined assessment

- Independent investigation – 20%
- A 3000 – 4000-word enquiry in to a topic of the student's choice that relates to the specification and includes collecting fieldwork data, both primary and secondary.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

Alongside the geography-specific skills, there is a wide range of highly transferrable skills that will also be developed including the ability to communicate effectively, working as a team, carrying out individual research, interpreting and analysing data, forming opinions with the ability to express both sides whilst reaching a final judgement. These, alongside the knowledge can be further explored at university, taking either a generic geography degree, or a degree with a more specific focus, like volcanicity.

Career opportunities linked directly to geography include:

- Environmental engineer
- Meteorologist
- Teacher
- Volcanologist
- Conservationist
- Town planner

Although the depth and breadth of skills developed will provide many opportunities in many different areas.

'A level Geography has allowed me to have a deeper understanding of the world I live in, on both a physical and human level. I now analyse global affairs with much greater detail'