

A-LEVEL GEOGRAPHY

Edexcel

THE SUBJECT

Geography today seeks a perspective on a world undergoing increased pressure for space and resources. In searching for the link between the physical environment and the living world geography provides the perfect complementary subject for those studying either sciences or subjects involving economic development. Its varied themes cross many disciplines and can prove stimulating for any student with an enquiring mind. A-level Geography can be studied as a pathway to careers as diverse as planning or media and is highly regarded by business as a subject requiring a wide variety of skills and good all-round ability. It is a subject that encompasses within its syllabus all the key skills identified in Curriculum 2000 for A-level.

QUALIFICATIONS

It is **advisable** that students embarking on A-level Geography courses should have completed their Geography studies up to GCSE level. It is **possible**, however, for students to start "from scratch", without this prior qualification.

In addition it is advisable that intending candidates should have passed GCSE English and Mathematics grade C, or have followed a similar course.

THE COURSE

Students will study both physical and human geography and the syllabus particularly emphasises the interactions between them..

EXAMINATIONS

Students are entered for the Edexcel (London) Board Syllabus B.

The AS Examination consists of 3 units, two examined by 1 ½ hour written papers and the third, an Environmental Investigation, assessed in the form of a 2500-word report. Each unit is worth 33.3% of the total AS mark (16.7% of the A-level mark)

- **Unit 1. Changing Landforms and their Management** - The study of the global hydrological systems, riverine and coastal environments and their management.
- **Unit 2. Managing Change in Human Environments** - The issues facing rural and urban areas today.
- **Unit 3. Environmental Investigation** - Each student will plan and carry out an enquiry and write a report based on an issue that has been approved by the Examination Board. An essential part of the preparation for the Investigation is the **Field Course**. This is usually undertaken in Flatford Mill Field Centre in Suffolk during the Autumn Term.

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The A-Level Examination (A2 units). The further three A2 units, taken with the three AS units lead to the full A-level qualification. These are:

- **Unit 4. Global Challenge** – A 2-hour written examination worth 15% of the A-level total. This deals with issues of sustainability, notably climatic change, global ecosystems, population growth, international migration and globalisation of economics.
- **Unit 5. Researching Global Futures** - Examined by a written paper of 1 hour 20 minutes (7.5% of A-level mark) and coursework consisting of a 1500 word report (7.5% of A-level mark). The areas of study are Living with Hazardous Environments, Health and Welfare, Development and Feeding the World Population.
- **Unit 6. Synoptic Unit** - Examined by a written examination of 2 hours worth 20% of the A-level mark, in the style of an Issues Analysis exercise, based on pre-release materials and designed to draw together knowledge, understanding and skills from the whole course.

GENERAL COMMENTS

A-level Geography deals with the causes and processes of development and change. It is therefore essential for A-level geographers to keep up with current happenings in the world, and they are expected to read a quality newspaper as part of their background reading. Much of the course is supported by detailed case-studies of geographical events or situations and although these are often studied by means of video programmes, the written detail is obtained from newspapers and from the information magazines 'Geofile' and Geo Fact Sheet. Students are also encouraged to read the 'Geography Review' written specifically for A level students and published 5 times a year