

Geography AS/A level

Introduction

Geography is a subject grounded in the real world, primarily investigating how humans interact with their physical and human environments. Whilst studying Geography students develop very useful transferable skills such as the ability to research independently, collect and analyse data, undertake practical fieldwork, make presentations, debate topics and work effectively as part of a team. Geography is also a useful subject for a wide range of possible future careers including pollution analyst, disaster manager, lawyer and weather presenter to name but a few.

Year 1

This year is divided into two units.

Unit 1 is entitled Global Challenges. Principally it poses questions which seek to explore the meaning, causes and impacts of a number of headline global issues. It allows students to evaluate the strategies being used to manage current problems and to think of solutions for the 21st century. The majority of the study reflects on the global scale but also offers the opportunity to examine what can be done at more local levels. There are 2 compulsory topics:- The world at Risk and Going Global. The first primarily examines natural global hazards and global climate change and the second brings together the rapid economic changes which are impacting unfairly on people across the globe and reflects on issues around urbanisation, population and migration.

Unit 2 requires students to choose one physical topic and one human topic from a choice of four. We will be covering Crowded Coasts and either Rebranding Places. In this module fieldwork research and practical work are seen as part of the investigation process so students would need to be prepared to undertake day and short period fieldtrips to ensure that the requirements of the syllabus are met. These range from one day to two

night/3 day trips. We also have opportunities for longer residential.

Year 2

Unit 3 is entitled Contested Planet and examines the use and management of key global resources. Within the unit six specific topics are covered including Energy Security, Water Conflicts, Biodiversity under Threat, Super power Geographies, bridging the Development gap and the Technological fix. The examination will involve pre released materials which students will study prior to the exam and answer synoptic questions.

Unit 4 involves students selecting a research topic and completing an examination on the topic, including focussed pre released materials. As with the AS unit, fieldwork will be an integral part of the research. Topic options include:-

- *Tectonic activity and hazards
- *Cold environments – landforms and change
- * Life on the margins – food supply problems
- * The world of cultural diversity
- * Pollution and Human health at risk
- * Consuming the rural landscape – Leisure and Tourism

Assessment

The assessments are different for every unit and designed to test a range of skills. Units will be examined in either January or June in each academic year.

Specific Entry Criteria

Grade C in English Language.