

GEOGRAPHY

A LEVEL COURSE DESCRIPTION

There has never been a more important or valuable time to study geography. We are living in an age where we face unprecedented change to our physical and geo-political climate, with issues such as unsustainable population growth, resource depletion, climate change and migration dominating our media and politics. The A level geography curriculum enables students to study the world, its issues and their individual place in this ever changing environment. Geographers are expert researchers, data analysts and decision makers. They can use tools such as GIS to turn maps from a two-dimensional representation of a country's physical contours into a tool that illustrates social attributes or attitudes: not just where people live, but how, what they think and how they vote. They understand the physics of climate change, the interaction between weather events and flood risk and the way that people's behaviour is influenced by the space around them. Taken together, this makes for a multidisciplinary subject which is not just interesting, but also extremely employable. It is therefore perhaps unsurprising that geography has seen the largest growth in uptake of any of the major subjects and why according to the Higher Education Careers Services Unit, only 5.8% of geography graduates were still job-hunting six months after they graduated, against an average of 7.3%.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You should have a grade 6 in GCSE Geography. We would also advise a grade 6 in English and Mathematics given the highly literate and numerate nature of the subject.



Progression

Geography is an excellent complement to many other A Level subjects particularly Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Sociology, Economics, Politics, English; ICT and History. The wide variety of skills and knowledge that you will acquire make it a basis for many university courses and careers. Past students that have completed Geography A Level have gone on to study Geography, Geology, Law, Medicine, Architecture and Teaching at university.





AS OUTLINE

Unit 1: Physical Geography and people and the environment

- Hazards;
- Coastal systems and landscapes

Unit 2: Human geography and geography fieldwork investigation

- Changing places;
- Geographical fieldwork investigation;

A2 OUTLINE

Unit 1: Physical Geography

- Hazards;
- Water and Carbon;

Unit 2: Human Geography

- Global systems and governance;
- Changing places;
- Population

Unit 3: Geography fieldwork investigation

An individual investigation including data collected in the field. Must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification.

ASSESSMENT

AS at a glance

Unit 1: Physical Geography and people and the environment - 1 ½ hour exam, 50% of AS

Unit 2: Human geography and geography fieldwork investigation - 1 ½ hour exam, 50% of AS

A2 at a glance

Unit 1: Physical Geography - 2 ½ hour exam, 40% of A2

Unit 2: Human Geography - 2 ½ hour exam, 40% of A2

Unit 3: Geography fieldwork investigation – 3000 - 4000 word report, 20% of A2

ENRICHMENT AND STUDENT SUPPORT •

- Year 12 fieldtrip to investigate coasts;
- Year 12 fieldtrip to London locations to practise Geographical skills;
- Year 13 fieldtrip(s) to facilitate individual investigations;
- Student revision conferences hosted by AQA and Tutor2U
- Weekly study support sessions after school;
- Up to date teaching and learning material with e-textbooks provided to all students;
- A well-resourced learning environment with GPS loggers to facilitate use of geographical information systems, modern laptops, and use of ipads for fieldwork.

Routes for Success - Humanities

The Routes to Success Programme is designed for ALL students in Year 12 at St Angela's Ursuline 6th Form. The HUMANITIES programme aims to offer students opportunities to work with both industry and universities, opportunities will include links with; The Houses of Parliament, Black Lawyers

Directory, Debate Mate, Trowers and Hamlin, St Mary's and Leicester University. Summer school opportunities will include links with; UCL History, SOAS and London Met.

Please note- All Year 12 students will select one main 'Route for Success' from these in order to experience a specialist enrichment and learning support programme. It will, of course, be possible to select a subject/subjects from another route on your timetable. We base our Routes to Success Programme on the university curriculum structure and university links are not exclusive to one route, so can be accessed by all students.

