

# 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

### Physical Component

- **Water & Carbon Cycles:** Water and carbon cycles as natural systems. The water cycle. The carbon cycle. Water, carbon, climate and life on Earth. Case Study: Tropical rainforest. Case Study: River catchment
- **Coastal Systems & Landscapes:** Coasts as natural systems. Systems and processes. Coastal landscape development. Coastal management. Case Study: Coastal Environment at a local scale. Case Study: Contrasting coastal landscapes beyond the UK
- **Hazards:** The concept of hazard in a geographical context. Plate tectonics. Volcanic hazards. Seismic hazards. Storm hazards. Fires in nature. Case Study: A multi-hazardous environment beyond the UK. Case Study: A local scale of a specified place in a hazardous setting

## A2 OUTLINE

### Human Component

- **Changing Places:** The nature and importance of places. Changing places – relationships, connections, meaning and representation. Place studies: Local place study exploring the developing character of a place local. Contrasting place study exploring the developing character of a contrasting and distant place.

- **Global Systems & Governance:** Globalisation. Global systems. International trade and access to markets. Global governance. The 'global commons'. Antarctica as a global common. Globalisation critique
- **Population & the Environment:** The environmental context for human population characteristics and change. Environment and population. Environment, health and wellbeing. Population change. Principles of population ecology and their application to human populations. Global population futures. Case study of a country/society experiencing specific patterns of overall population change. Case study of a specified local area to illustrate and analyse the relationship between place and health related to its physical environment, socio-economic character and the experience and attitudes of its populations.

### Assessment

- Physical Paper: 2.5 hours, 40% of the final grade
- Human Paper: 2.5 hours, 40% of the final grade
- Non-Examined Assessment: Coursework- 20 % of the final grade

### Enrichment and student support

- Fieldtrips: Stratford, a coastal environment and a field trip to facilitate individual investigations
- Student Revision conferences hosted by AQA and Tutor2U
- Weekly study support sessions after school
- A well-resourced learning environment with GIS accessibility

## Beyond St Angela's

Geography is not just about what you learn in the classroom, and we must consider what we want to do with our lives beyond St. Angela's. Our Geography department, therefore, works with Kings College London to give you a taste for university life. Along your A-level Geography journey you will get the opportunity to experience a day in the life of a Geography

undergraduate at King's College London. The day includes a range of sessions including an interactive lab experience, and the opportunity to hear from Geography undergraduate students and lecturers on a campus tour. This will give you the opportunity to not only expand their geography knowledge through research based learning, but experience what it is like to be studying at a campus based university.

