

Geography

A level

What will I study and learn?

The **Physical Systems** component considers the interrelationships between the land, oceans and atmosphere to help you understand the processes, characteristics and impacts on these landscapes and cycles that shape them over time, and create a number of issues when trying to manage them.

The **Human Interactions** component investigates the actions, interactions and spatial patterns of people and places. Using examples and case studies, you will explore a variety of contrasting places, unpicking the flows and connections that have

made them the way they are and the way in which global systems and governance have local consequences.

The **Geographical Debates** component will encourage you to think critically about some of the most dynamic issues the planet faces. The concepts of inequality, mitigation and adaptation, sustainability, risk and threshold underpin this component.

The **Investigative Geography** component will require you to produce a written report (3,000–4,000 words) about an independent investigation.

How will I be assessed?

Examinations
Paper 1 Physical Systems (22%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 hour and 30 minutes• Earth's life support systems• Landscape systems – Glaciated landscapes.
Paper 2 Human Interactions (22%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 hour and 30 minutes• Changing spaces; Making places• Global connections – Global Migration and Human Rights.
Paper 3 Geographical Debates (36%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 hours and 30 minutes• Hazardous Earth• Disease Dilemmas.
Non-examined assessment Independent Investigation – 3,000–4,000 words (20%)

A level/IB

Geography is a multidisciplinary subject, ranging from the physics of weather to the biology of the spread of disease, the environmental aspects of climate change to the art of field sketching, and the mathematics behind data presentation. Geography graduates remain some of the most employable. The skills, knowledge and understanding gained during the study of geography are held in high regard in business. For this reason it combines well with numerous subjects; in fact there are no typical subject combinations for people who study Geography, with over eighty UK universities offering geography-related degrees.

You will be encouraged to consider your own role, values and attitudes, as well as those of others in relation to the themes being studied. You are required to develop a sense of place, ranging from local to global scales, and be able to analyse, evaluate and debate spatial and temporal change. Skills such as mapping, graphicacy and quantitative techniques will also be developed.

Fieldwork is an integral part of the Geography course and an assessed component within the written papers and non-examined assessment. In the Lower Sixth you will have a two-night residential to Birmingham to investigate the perception of space

and place, applying the skills required for your individual investigation. In the Upper Sixth you will head to the Alps for a four-day trip; the Chamonix Valley and city of Geneva are two stunning locations and will help you truly appreciate the world around us.

Entry requirements

Students who are very successful at Geography tend to have high grades in Science, Mathematics and English. You should have a grade 7 at GCSE in Geography to study the A level course or IB higher level course; a grade 6 is the minimum for the standard level course.



IB

What will I study and learn?

Geography asks fundamental questions about individuals and societies, and their complex interrelationships with the physical environment. You will particularly develop your communication skills as well as those of critical analysis.

All students will study the following components:

- **Core Theme – Patterns and Change:** There are four compulsory topics: Population in Transition; Disparities in Wealth and Development; Patterns in Environmental Quality and Sustainability; and Patterns in Resource Consumption
- **Optional Themes:** These will be chosen from: Freshwater – Issues and Conflicts; Oceans and their Coastal Margins; Extreme Environments; Hazards and

Disasters – Risk Assessment and Response; Leisure, Sport and Tourism; The Geography of Food and Health; and Urban Environment.

You will also produce an internal assessment coursework (2,500 words), which is based upon the collection and analysis of data, obtained either on fieldwork days or work carried out in the local area.

Those choosing to take the higher level course will also study the Global Interactions extension, which includes seven topics: Measuring Global Interactions, Changing Space – The Shrinking World, Economic Interactions and Flows, Environmental Change, Sociocultural Exchanges, Political Outcomes, and Global Interactions at the Local Level.

How will I be assessed?

Examinations			Coursework (Internal assessment)
Paper 1 Core Theme – Patterns and Change	Paper 2 Optional Themes	Paper 3 Global Interactions	
Two structured questions from 'The Geography Core'.	Two (SL) or Three (HL) structured questions from the Optional Themes.	One essay question (from a choice of three) from the Global Interactions unit.	Hypothesis-based investigation, including data collection – Topic must link to the Core.
1 hour and 30 minutes	1 hour and 30 minutes (SL) 2 hours and 15 minutes (HL)	1 hour and 30 minutes	2,500 words
25% (HL) 40% (SL)	35% (both SL and HL)	20% (HL only)	20% (HL) 25% (SL)

Want to know more?

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Exam Board:
www.ocr.org.uk
www.ibo.org

“Geography enables you to develop skills such as data analysis and essay writing, which are fundamental if you are choosing to study at university. The real life application of many aspects of Geography is intriguing and the variety of topics makes it an appealing subject.

Holly Rowson, OB 2018
Courses: Geography, Maths and Economics