

Geography

What will I study and learn?

The 'Physical Systems' component considers the interrelationships between the land, oceans and atmosphere. It will help you to understand the processes and characteristics of a range of landscapes, how they are shaped over time, and how they can be managed.

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.

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.

Beyond the classroom

Fieldwork is an integral part of the Geography course and an assessed component within the written papers and non-examined assessment (NEA). In the Lower Sixth you will have a two-night residential to Snowdon and Birmingham. The aim of this fieldwork is to begin the preparation for the NEA by learning different fieldwork techniques but also to study the glacial landforms found in Snowdon and to investigate the perception of space and place in Birmingham. There is also an optional trip to Iceland that runs biannually to explore the amazing volcanic landscapes and glaciers.

“I loved taking Geography at Sixth Form because I found it fascinating to see how the topics we studied linked into my everyday life. It also allowed me to further my understanding and gain knowledge on global topics that I was seeing in the news, such as Covid-19, and how it affected both the physical and human geography in the world. The course allowed me to develop my data analysis and essay writing skills which have been fundamental to my further study at University. I am excited to continue exploring the synopticity of the subject through studying geography at University.

Bella, OB

Courses: Biology, Geography and Psychology



Want to know more?

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Exam Board:
ocr.org.uk



How will I be assessed?

Examinations

Paper 1

22%

Physical Systems

- 1 hour and 30 minutes
- Earth's Life Support Systems (Carbon and Water)
- Landscape Systems – Glaciated Landscapes

Paper 2

22%

Human Interactions

- 1 hour and 30 minutes
- Changing Spaces; Making Places
- Global connections – Global Migration and Human Rights

Paper 3

36%

Geographical Debates

- 2 hours and 30 minutes
- Hazardous Earth
- Disease Dilemmas

Non-Examined Assessment

Independent Investigation

20%

3,000–4,000 words

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

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