

Geography

Exam board : Edexcel / Pearson

Specification no :9GEO

Link to the Specification:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/geography-2016.html>



Fieldwork in the sunshine. A rare experience in geography.

Content:

Topic	Assessment	A Level %
Paper 1 – Physical Geography focused topics	Terminal exam	30
Paper 2 – Human Geography focused topics	Terminal exam	30
Paper 3 – Synoptic paper (draws on both unit1 and 2 content)	Terminal exam	20
Paper 4 - Non-Assessed Examination (NEA) Coursework	Non-Assessed Examination (coursework)	20

Course Delivery:

The Geography A-Level course is delivered to each class by two members of the Geography department, Each member of staff will teach a discrete unit of the course. The teaching of Geography involves significant amounts of class discussion and debate linked to tasks that are compiled in course companions. Students will examine location and place through case studies and be asked to research, present and manipulate primary fieldwork and secondary research sources as well as analyse statistical information alongside learning of key threshold concepts that underpin the subject.

Course Content:

At key stage 5, students will study a combination of core and optional topics that will give them a broad understanding of physical and human themes and concepts and the complex interactions between them. This is delivered under common themes of actions, stakeholders and futures.

At AS level students will investigate a balance of physical and human components. Unit 1 'Dynamic Landscapes' examines tectonic processes and hazards and landscape systems with a focus on coastal environments (on which 1 day's fieldwork will be based in the spring term).

This fieldwork considers human impact on coastal locations and processes in South Wales. Unit 2 'Dynamic Places' examines human topics including Globalisation and Regeneration (on which 1 day's fieldwork will be based in the spring term). This fieldwork considers deprivation in coastal communities. The units are examined in two equally weighted exams for those students who choose to take an AS level examination. Fieldwork is examined in both papers at this level.

At A level students additionally study two further units. Unit 3 'Physical Systems and Sustainability' investigates the Water Cycle and Water Insecurity alongside the Carbon Cycle and Energy Insecurity and finally Climate Change Futures. Unit 4 examines 'Human Systems and Geopolitics' with a focus on Superpowers and Global Development, examining Health, Human Rights and Interventions. The 4 units are assessed in two terminal exams, paper 1 and 2 composing 60% of the overall assessment whilst paper 3 worth 20% of the full A level is a synoptic paper which draws from the whole course and which is much more skills-based as well as focused around a synoptic theme.

A Coursework investigation (around 6000 words in length) composes the final 20% of the A level assessment and is completed in summer term of year 12 and Autumn term of year 13. This will be based around data collection during a **compulsory fieldwork programme that takes place in activities week (the last week of the summer term of year 12). Please note that this takes place during activities week and that students who choose geography will be expected to prioritise this over any other activities week offering.** Student are encouraged to investigate an area of personal interest. Recent investigations have considered topics as diverse as gentrification, inequality, coastal management, regeneration projects, sustainable transport, diversity, social exclusion and sand dune ecology.

Fieldwork remains a compulsory feature of Geography and a highlight of the course. It will provide students with first-hand opportunities to experience human and physical processes in the field as well as to develop a wide range of techniques to collect data in the field and analyse it at a later point. At AS level, 2 individual days of fieldwork will be undertaken and will be assessed within the AS level examination. However, at A Level, fieldwork will only be assessed through a coursework component that will compose 20% of the final A Level grade and which may be based around short residential. At both levels, fieldwork will assess both physical and human components as well as the interaction between them.

Entry requirements:

If the subject is taken at GCSE level, it should be passed at grade 5 or above. At least one English/Humanities/Social Science subject should be passed with a 6.

Resources:

Edexcel A level Geography Book 1 and 2 Third Edition

Skills & personal qualities required / developed by course:

The course is highly topical and so both requires and develops an active interest in contemporary global situations and a passion for the world around them including environmental stewardship and social justice. Students are expected to show initiative and demonstrate independent learning in the subject.

Skills of analysis, synthesis, group-work, debate, decision-making, statistical analysis and IT are developed during the delivery of the course. Focus, discipline and organisation are key to managing the large workload. Passion, especially when considering issues around themes such as equality, diversity and environmental stewardship are also encouraged.

Recommended reading / websites:

www.geography.org.uk

www.geographyinthenews.org

www.rgs.org

<http://www.bristolga.org.uk/current-programme/>

National Geographic magazine

Geography Review magazine

New Scientist magazine

Any current affairs journal or newspaper

Prisoners of Geography by Tim Marshall

Power of Geography by Tim Marshall

Future of Geography by Tim Marshall

Why Geography Matters by Nicholas Crane

Telephone: 0117 353 2073

Email: 6thform@smrt.bristol.sch.uk

www.smrt.bristol.sch.uk

