

Geography (AQA)



Course Content

The course has 2 examination papers. Physical geography and Human geography. The course has been designed at The Grange to be taught by 2 specialist teachers, each with a focus on one of the two papers. Equal teaching time is allocated for each paper. Teaching involves discussions, note taking, decision making, analysis of data, alongside independent study by the students. Independent study has a strong focus within geography and the students are encouraged to gain wider knowledge and understanding through their own personal research.

Assessment

AQA Specification:

Paper 1 (2hours 30 minutes):

Water and the carbon cycles

Coastal systems and landscapes

Hazards

Paper 2 (2 hours 30 minutes):

Global systems and global governance

Changing Places

Contemporary urban environments

NEA (non-examined assessment)

A fieldwork project relating to the specification.

The Geography NEA (Non-Examined Assessment) is an independent fieldwork investigation worth 20% of the A-Level grade. Students will define their own research question, collect primary and secondary data, and write a 5,000 to 6,000-word report blending geographical theory with their findings

Fieldwork:

Students must do a minimum of four days' fieldwork during the course. In the March of the Lower Sixth there will be four-day residential field trip (cost of around £400) to Scarborough and Beverley assessing coastal erosion and management along the Holderness coastline, changing characteristics of Scarborough, water and carbon changes in a local woodland at Kirkby Grindalythe and microclimate in Beverley. An additional day is required for pupils to collect data for their project in order to write this up over the summer holidays.

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Skills

Skills developed during this course:

Cartographic skills
Graphical skills
Numerical skills
Statistical skills
Use of qualitative and quantitative data
Formulate enquiry and argument
Literacy

What Next

Geographers aim to make sense of many of the world's contemporary issues, such as climate change, geopolitical conflict, population growth, degradation of natural environments, water insecurity and poverty. Geographers develop an understanding of these issues on a range of scales from local to global, critically assess their significance and consider future actions. Geographers are decision makers of the future.

"The study of geography is about... understanding the complexity of our world" Barack Obama

"It's the must-have A level... geography's all the rage" The Guardian

"Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future" Michael Palin
Where can geography take you?

Geography is recognised by the Russell Group of universities as a "facilitating subject". These are subjects that are required more often than others for entry onto degree courses. Geography encourages ways of seeing and thinking that make geographers eminently employable. Many growth areas of employment are geography related, such as digital mapping (GIS), green jobs, energy and sustainable development. In recent years, A Level geographers at The Grange have gone on to study a wide range of subjects at university, including geography, oceanography, environmental science, medicine, architecture, dentistry, engineering and journalism.

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