

GEOGRAPHY (AQA)



What is Geography?

Geography is the study of Earth's landscapes, peoples, places and environments. It is, quite simply, about the world in which we live. Geography is unique in bridging the social sciences (human geography) with the natural sciences (physical geography).

Why is Geography Important?

With the growing importance of issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation, spatial epidemiology and inequalities, geography is one of the most relevant courses you could choose to study. Geography courses are popular, demonstrated by strong completion rates and positive student feedback. Geographers are also highly employable and collectively receive competitive graduate salaries. Above all, geographers have potential to be well-informed global citizens, using their unique combinations of knowledge and skills to make a positive difference in the world.

How will the course be taught?

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.

How much of the course is coursework?

The pupils are also expected to complete a Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) whereby they are expected to choose a topic that interests them but is also included in the AQA geography specification. As part of the independent study element of the course, the pupils gather their own data and write up their project/dissertation with generic guidance from the department. The pupils will be given an A level geography textbook, an exercise book and revision materials along with access to web-based resources and paper revision guide booklets to assist the pupils in completing different aspects of the course.

What is the format of the course?

The course is broken down into 2 examination papers and an NEA. The examination is broken down into both a physical and a human geography paper. Each examination paper takes two hours and thirty minutes and accounts for 40% of the marks. Finally, the non-examined assessment (NEA) coursework component accounts for 20% of the qualification and can be completed between Spring of Year 12 and Autumn of Year 13.

How can I get better at Geography?

The main way that pupils can improve their understanding of geography is to read. In the department we have a whole host of geographical magazines that will help broaden the pupil's knowledge in geography. Alongside this we have an array of literature on teams and Firefly that the pupils can access in both study periods and at home. Experience has shown us that pupils who spend time on past examination papers greatly improve their examination techniques, timings and have a stronger grasp on the key concepts examined in Year 13.