

Geography

Entrance requirements

To make a success of A level Geography you require **at least a grade B in GCSE Geography**. Geography is a flexible subject, which is especially attractive to those who want to maintain strong links with the "real world" outside the classroom. It can be classified as either an arts, science or social science subject. A-level geographers have subsequently pursued many and varied careers including, for example, medicine, law, architecture, engineering and teaching

Traditionally, Geography is divided into Physical and Human Geography, and the table below summarises the new specification at a glance.

<p>AS 1: Physical Geography Fluvial environments, Ecosystems, Atmospheric Processes</p>
<p>AS 2: Human Geography Population, Settlement, Development</p>
<p>AS 3: Fieldwork Skills and Techniques in Geography</p>
<p>A2 1: Physical Geography Plate Tectonics and Dynamic Coastal Environments</p>
<p>A2 2: Human Geography: Sustainable Settlements and Tourism</p>

Current Issues

The modern emphasis of Geography is increasingly on issues of concern at any of the scales of enquiry, from local to global e.g., the problems of newly industrialising countries; famine and poverty; man's impact on the environment; flood protection and coastal management; the challenge of the rapid changes occurring in the cities of the developing and developed world; local and national planning issues including how the planning process operates; the energy question; problem of employment and changes in the type and location of industry.

Skills

A wide variety of useful skills are developed by the student of geography. These are the basic skills of communication (written and spoken), numeracy and graphics (the drawing and interpretation of maps and diagrams) together with those of a more specific nature, including:

- Problem solving e.g., in land form management or planning issues
- Data collection, analysis and presentation e.g., of statistics
- Computing e.g., use of data bases
- Use of instruments e.g., flow metres for velocity readings
- Decision-making
- Social skills e.g., in fieldwork through working in groups and using questionnaires.

Fieldwork

Courses at A-Level frequently involve the writing of fieldwork reports or individual studies. This increases self-reliance and develops the ability to work on your own, as well as co-operating in group data collection exercises.

Reality

Geography is concerned with the real world - past, present and future. It integrates a number of subject areas and can usually be combined with science subjects, e.g., Maths, Computer Science, Biology and Physics, art subjects, e.g., History, English, Modern Languages and Social Sciences, e.g., Business Studies and Sociology. It allows the "science" specialist to develop important literacy skills and the "arts" specialist to develop important numeracy and graphical skills. Geography therefore avoids the problems inherent in over-specialisation.

Scheme Of Assessment

Unit	Duration & Weighting
AS 1: Physical Geography	1 hour 15 minutes. Externally assessed written paper worth 40% of AS and 16% of A Level
AS 2: Human Geography	1 hour 15 minutes. Externally assessed written paper worth 40% of AS and 16% of A Level
AS 3: Fieldwork Skills	1 hour. Externally assessed written paper worth 20% of AS and 8% of A Level
A2 1: Physical Geography	1 hour 30 minutes. Externally assessed written paper worth 24% of A Level
A2 2: Human Geography	1 hour 30 minutes. Externally assessed written paper worth 24% of A Level
A2 3: Decision Making	1 hour 30 mins. Externally assessed written paper worth 12% of A Level