

Geology

Entry requirements

AS level Geology is available to all year 13 students, **no previous knowledge of Geology is required**. AS level Geology is designed as "stand-alone" science subject suitable for students who want to broaden their base in science but it is equally useful to those studying arts and humanities who would like an element of science. **The minimum requirement for AS level Geology is a grade CC in Double Award Science but those with a BB grade will be given preference.**

The AS course introduces students to events past and present at the surface of the Earth and to processes which create the present pattern of continents and oceans and the formation of economic deposits of metals and energy resources. The course is designed to stimulate an interest and awareness of the surrounding environment and an enjoyment and appreciation of the natural landscape. The study of earthquakes, volcanoes and plate tectonic movements together with the formation and classification of the main rock groups are the basis of the course. Geology offers an explanation and interpretation of geological events in the world today.

There is an opportunity to work in the field and the coursework element which is an integral 20% of the course will include fieldwork observations carried out throughout Ireland together with the ability to recognise rocks, minerals and fossils from hand specimens and the interpretation of basic geology maps.

Field work will take place in counties Antrim and Donegal.

It will include visits to both working and abandoned quarries.

Why study Geology?

Geology will broaden your field of study and provide you with a useful insight into both your local and world environment. Some courses at university may require an input from geology, especially the sciences, engineering, geography, geophysics and archaeology.

The course is enjoyable and well structured with a balance between the theoretical and practical elements. It will give you a useful insight into modern environmental problems and their solutions and can also provide a useful base for many courses at higher level education and future careers.

The Geology Department is one of the best in Northern Ireland and the U.K. In the recent years pupils taking Geology have finished in the top 3 places in N. Ireland and in the top 25 in the U.K.

Course Format

The AS level is divided into three modules which are examined at the end of Year 13. Each unit at AS level can be retaken. Module 3 is controlled assessment and is completed through the year.

Those who have succeeded in and enjoyed the AS course can continue with a further three modules in Year 14. These modules introduce new topics such as fossils, economic and environmental geology, fieldwork and mapping skills. As with the AS course there is strong element of fieldwork, practical work and coursework. These modules are examined June of Year 14. The third module is controlled assessment and is completed through the year.

Scheme of Assessment

Unit	Level	Name	Duration	Weighting	
				AS	A Level
F791	AS	Global Tectonics and Geological structures	1 hour	30%	15%
F792	AS	The Rock Cycle - Processes and products	1 hr 45 mins.	50%	25%
F793	AS	Practical Skills. Tasks marked by centre based on field and laboratory skills.	60 mins. -	20%	10%

Unit	Level	Name	Duration	Weighting	
				AS	A Level
F794	A2	Environmental Geology	1 hour		15%
F795	A2	Evolution of Life, Earth and Climate	1 hr 45 mins.		25%
F796	A2	Laboratory/Field Skills (2) Two centre based tasks involving field and lab. skills.	60 mins -		10%