

Academic Requirements

Students who have obtained at least a grade B in Geography at GCSE are more likely to obtain a top Advanced level grade. However, this is a subject where genuine enthusiasm and hard work can result in pleasing results for candidates with a wide range of abilities and backgrounds.

Course Specification:

The new OCR AS and A level specification H083/H483 continues to cover a broad range of Physical and Human aspects of Geography. The course encourages you to be interested in the world around you, learning about local and global issues and becoming involved in some practical work outside the classroom.

The AS level is assessed in two units:

Managing Physical Environments

- River environments
- Coastal environments
- Cold environments
- Hot arid and semi arid environments

Managing Change in Human Environments

- Managing urban change
- Managing rural change
- The energy issue
- The growth of tourism

You will have to do fieldwork which relates directly to the above units, and also to learn about a range of research and investigative skills.

Two additional A2 modules complete the A level:

Global issues

Environmental issues: Earth Hazard, Ecosystems and environments under treat, Climatic hazards
Economic Issues: Population and resources, Globalisation, Development and inequalities

Geographical Skills

1. Identifying a suitable question or hypothesis for investigation
2. Developing a plan or strategy for conducting the investigation
3. Collecting and recording appropriate data
4. Presenting the data collected in the appropriate forms
5. Analysing and interpreting the data

The skills unit is on any topic chosen by you and can be any of the units previously studied. This could be excellent for exotic field trips!

The course allows you to develop the key skills of communication, problem solving, IT, working with others and independent learning that employers consider to be so important.

Why Geography?

Geography is fun, and can be studied at university as an Art or Science. Graduates are extremely marketable and enter a wide range of professions, many of them not strictly geographical in content, but with a geographical basis (planning, transport, surveying, conservation/ecology, tourism, marketing, even teaching). There are opportunities to gain key skills such as ICT competency, working with others and communication skills.

A Student's Perspective

‘The AS Geography course is similar to GCSE but the subjects are studied to a greater depth. The lessons are really interesting and fun – I especially enjoy debating new topics with my classmates. The A level offers grounding in both human and physical geography that can be taken further. The coursework requires a lot of individual hard work but it is rewarding if you are organised.’

‘One of the best aspects of the geography course is the field trips, which always prove to be exciting.’