

Geography

Exam Board: OCR

Summary of course content and assessment scheme

AS Level

Qualifications	Study Modules		Examinations	
AS Year 12	Managing Physical Environment	Topics	Content	
		Coasts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Features and processes of coastal environments How we manage the coasts How we manage drainage basins 	50% of the total AS marks 1½ hour written paper Data response and one essay type questions
Rivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The distinctive characteristics of desert environments 			
Deserts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can deserts be sustainably managed 			
	Managing change in Human Environments	Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How has tourism changed in the last 50 years How can tourism be managed to ensure sustainability 	As above
		Rural Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the key features of rural areas How can rural change be managed without harm to the environment 	
		Urban Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the key features of urban areas Management of urban areas 	

A2 Level

Qualifications	Study Modules		Examinations	
A Level = AS combined with A2	Global Issues	Topics	Content	
	Environmental Issues	Earth Hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An in depth study of the hazards: flooding, earthquakes, volcanoes, mass movement e.g. mudslides Case studies of all the above Why do the impacts of hazards change from place to place 	30% of the total A Level 2½ hour written paper, students answer 5 questions 3 data response and 2 essay type questions
	Economic Issues	Climatic Hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An in depth study into Hurricanes and tornadoes How can we measure the differences between countries 	
		Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can the gap between LEDCs and MEDCs be bridged 	
	Geographical Skills		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students identify a suitable hypothesis for investigation (based on the field work residential course) Questions focus on the skills and techniques used for the investigation, including statistics 	20% of the total A Level. 1½ hour written paper, students answer 1 data response question and 2 essay type questions

Why you should consider studying Geography in the 6th Form

Geography is an excellent, all round, academic subject that discusses up-to-date issues such as over-population, tourism and the effects of hurricanes and earthquakes. It is a subject that is liked by universities and businesses, due in part to its high reputation.

Comments from students who have studied this subject in the past

"I've enjoyed the variety of topics at A level, but the new syllabus looks even better, especially with the new unit on tourism and the extended units on earthquakes, volcanoes and mass movement. Also on the new syllabus there isn't the stress of coursework as it has been removed."

General Information

The units studied have changed. The geography department teachers and the existing A level students looking at the new syllabus agree that the changes have been for the better.

Instead of 6 units, one of which was coursework for the whole A level, now there are just 4.

Fieldwork is still required to enable students to do the "skills" paper at A2 – a three day residential trip will be planned for Year 13 students to Flatford Mill.

Skills

- You will need to have good literacy skills as there are "essay type" questions in each study unit.
- You will need to be able to read, understand and interpret OS maps.
- You will be handling some data and will need to interpret graphs.
- Good numeracy skills are an advantage for the skills unit at A2 which include statistics.
- You will need to do research including listening to the news and reading quality newspapers to find out how geography is changing all the time.

Frequently asked questions

Is there any coursework?

No. The new syllabus beginning in 2008 does not require coursework.

Who teaches A level?

Mr Lear, Miss Bowman and Miss Haverkamp

If I did not do very well on my first examination in January, could I retake?

Yes, there are opportunities to retake and the Exam Board will only take your best grade.

I am considering a career in tourism. Is Geography a good option?

Very much so. Especially as there is now a unit on tourism that is brand new to A level.

Martin Lear, Head of Geography