

# Geography



## Why Study A Level Geography?

“Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future” – Michael Palin

The study of Geography offers so much to students who want to have an understanding of our planet and which addresses key ideas and debates in our world today. The A-level Geography course would be attractive to those who have an interest in the world around us and want to study how its physical and human environments interact with one another to form our complex and amazing world. You will need to have an enquiring mind and be able to enjoy reading, writing and sharing ideas.

## Course Content

Unit 1: Global Challenges:

- World at Risk. This will include an introduction to a range of global natural hazards. It also focuses on climate change and global warming.
- Going Global. This will involve studying today’s rapid global economic changes and the related issues of population change and migration and development.

Unit 2: Geographical Investigations:

- Crowded Coasts. Students carry out detailed studies of contrasting coastal environments, investigating rapid coastal erosion and coastal management strategies.

- Rebranding Places. This topic investigates why rural and urban areas need to rebrand and how rebranding strategies can have a positive impact on people, the economy and the environment.
- Field work opportunities for unit 2. Fieldwork and research are an integral part of this unit. A 5 day residential fieldtrip will be undertaken, to the coastal town of Walton-on-the-Naze in Essex to look at coastal management and rebranding in an urban area.

### Unit 3: Contested Planet

This unit consists of six topics which include Superpower Geographies, Energy security, Biodiversity under threat, Water conflict, Bridging the Development Gap and The Technological Fix.

### Unit 4: Geographical Research

The chosen option is Tectonic Activity and Hazards and involves a strong physical geography emphasis and will develop your research skills.

### Assessment

Assessment consists of four exams in total with two taken at the end of each academic year.

### Exam Board

Edexcel

### Progression

Geography combines well with both arts and science subjects. You may already be thinking ahead to potential university and career choices so it is worth bearing in mind that Geography is a broad based subject that really fits in well with your future progression. For example, for careers in sustainability and green issues, urban regeneration, energy supply, retail location, managing the effects of hazards and climate change Geography is an obvious choice.

For careers in the world of business an understanding of global economics forms an important part of Geography. If you are thinking of a career in law, human rights, international relations or welfare then Geography gives you the opportunity to consider relevant issues such as; How do we measure development? What are the consequences of migration on societies?

If you are aiming at a future course in Medicine or Veterinary Medicine then Geography is a good choice to give your A Level options the breadth that universities like as you will gain a clear understanding of how the environment affects health and survival of people, animals and ecosystems as well as enhancing your skills of writing essays and extended reports.