

# WHY CHOOSE AS/A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY?

Geography is the study of places and the relationships between people and their environments. Geographers explore the physical properties of the earth's surface and the human societies spread across it.

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## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

If you're studying for the AS qualification, your first year will cover the following topic areas:

- **Changing Landscapes:** you will learn about either Coastal or Glaciated Landscapes. You will learn about the physical processes that have created these landscapes in the past and those that are modifying them in the present as well as how these environments can provide both opportunities and constraints for human activity.
- **Tectonic Hazards:** you will learn about the processes operating deep within the earth and how these are linked to the production of tectonic hazards at the earth's surface. Tectonic events have various impacts on people and the vulnerability of people to these tectonic hazards can lead to some events turning into disasters.
- **Changing Places:** you will learn how places change over time to develop a layered history that gives each place its unique 'personality'. You will start by learning about your own home place before developing further understanding of the changes (both good and bad) facing other contrasting places.

If you're studying for the A level qualification, in addition to the above, you will deepen your understanding of:

- Earth's life systems – water and carbon cycles
- Global migration
- Global governance of the earth's oceans
- You will also choose two themes from the following to explore further; Ecosystems, Weather and Climate, Development in either India, China or Africa, and, Energy Challenges and Dilemmas

### Fieldwork and Geographical Skills

As part of the AS and A level courses you will have the opportunity to undertake fieldwork and develop your own research skills. Fieldwork is a fundamental part of developing geographical understanding of the real world.



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## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are two exams at AS – these include a fieldwork section where you will answer questions about the fieldwork undertaken as a group.

At A level, there are three exams to sit and an independent investigation to complete (which carries 20% of the marks for the qualification). The focus of the investigation is up to you, this is a real opportunity to pursue your interest in an aspect of the course that has caught your imagination.

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Subject knowledge that is relevant to many of the biggest challenges facing society and the environment today - geography is always in the news
- A greater understanding of other societies and cultures
- An ability to collect, process, analyse and understand complicated data and communicate it to a variety of audiences
- Strong analytical and research skills – including qualitative and quantitative skills developed in the classroom and in the field
- Teamwork and leadership skills
- Problem solving skills

## CAREERS WITH GEOGRAPHY

The transferrable skills developed by studying geography are actively sought out by employers. Geography graduates are less likely to be unemployed than graduates in subjects such as History, Maths or English and there are a wealth of jobs that geographers can do spanning almost every sector!

## WHAT DO STUDENTS SAY?

“I hadn’t realised how important the ocean is to all our lives. The cables that carry most of our data criss-cross the world’s sea beds and some of the major conflicts in the world are being fought over ocean resources. My geography A level has really helped me understand the world as it is now.”

“I have really enjoyed going out on fieldwork this year. I am already planning my investigation for next year and am looking forward to looking at an issue that interests me and to completing my research.”

“The essay components have been my favourite. A chance to learn in-depth stuff about a country like China has been fascinating and really refreshing. A real contrast to my other science subjects.”