



A Level Geography

Key contact: Miss M Harris (Head of Department)
Exam Board: Edexcel

Overview of the course:

Geography is a very broad based subject. You will study a wide range of inter-related issues facing the modern world, issues that address key ideas and debates in our world today.

These are not only important in themselves; they also contribute to the application and understanding of many other A Level subjects.

What will you study?

The Edexcel A Level is a contemporary, issues based approach. The course focuses on fundamental processes and environments, whilst reflecting the world around us.

The A Level builds on the content and skills learnt at GCSE and helps students to gain the knowledge, skills and understanding which are vital to success at A Level and beyond.

The course will encourage synoptic thinking and encourage students to see 'the bigger picture' and link geographical processes, themes and concepts together across topics.

Geographers are interested in better understanding the world around them and in learning about people, places and environments. You will study these issues both locally and globally and in a variety of countries and cultures.

The course encourages you to develop a range of geographical skills that are also highly valued by other subjects: cartographic, graphical, data handling, research skills, problem solving, decision making and report writing.

You will investigate complex issues, analyse them by collecting and interpreting data on information and communicate your findings, providing you with the knowledge, understanding and skills for further study at higher education or for employment.

Assessment

Paper 1: Dynamic Landscapes, and Physical Systems and Sustainability – 2 hr 15 min (30%)

- Tectonic processes and hazards
- Coastal landscapes and change
- Water cycle and water insecurity
- The carbon cycle and energy security

Paper 2: Dynamic Places, and Human Geography and Geopolitics – 2 hr 15 min (30%)

- Globalisation
- Changing places
- Superpowers
- Global development and connections

Paper 3: Synoptic Investigation of a Contemporary Geographical Issue – 2 hr 15 min (20%)

- Draws together all the compulsory themes studied and will involve working with a resource booklet. Reading time is included in the exam.

Coursework: Independent Investigation – 2000 to 4000 words (20%)

- You must complete a minimum of four days of fieldwork throughout the two years.
- The individual investigation must be on data collected on one of these days in the field.

Possible career path?

Geography continues to be a very popular and highly respected subject by Universities and employers.

Geographers possess the skills that employees think important and they work in almost every field of employment.

Sample of courses and careers followed by former Ivybridge Community College Geography students, both here and abroad:-

- Geology
- Urban Planning
- Geophysics
- Marine pollution
- Hazard management
- Meteorology / weather forecasting
- Oceanography
- Vulcanology
- Environment Agency
- Forestry
- Teaching
- Mining Industry
- Geologist
- Civil Engineer
- Cartographer

Entry requirements

Five GCSEs Grade 9-5, including English and Mathematics **and** GCSE Geography at Grade 6 or above.