

# Geography - A Level AQA

## Course Outline

Geography aims to provide a broad ranging perspective on humans as inhabitants and transformers of the face of the earth. The search for this understanding involves thorough study of the physical earth, its habitation by humans, and the resulting diversity of regions and places.

## Key Areas of Study

This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams and submit all their non-exam assessment at the end of the course.

### Physical geography

1. Water and carbon cycles
2. Hot desert systems and landscapes
3. Coastal systems and landscapes
4. Glacial systems and landscapes
5. Hazards
6. Ecosystems under stress

### Human geography

7. Global systems and global governance
8. Changing places
9. Contemporary urban environments
10. Population and the environment
11. Resource security

### Geography fieldwork investigation

12. Fieldwork requirements
13. Investigation requirements

### Geographical skills

14. Geographical skills checklist

### Taught Through:

Fieldwork; teacher and student led presentations; class discussions and debate; games and simulations; case studies; independent research; peer/self assessment.

## Next Steps

**What could you be?**

Cultural Geographer; GIS Analyst/Programmer; Geoscientist; Teacher.

**Where could you go?**

Geography can be studied as either a science or humanity. Related degrees include Environmental Science; Urban Planning; Resource Management.

**Recent student destinations:**

Southampton - Geophysical Sciences; Staffordshire - Environmental Sustainability.

**Key Information****Entry Recommendations:**

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Geography or Science.

Grade 5 in English Language.

**Assessment:****Component 1: Physical geography**

Section A: Water and carbon cycles

Section B: either Hot desert systems and landscapes or Coastal systems and landscapes or Glacial systems and landscapes

Section C: either Hazards or Ecosystems under stress

**How it's assessed:**

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes

120 marks

40% of A-level

**Questions**

Section A: answer all questions (36 marks)

Section B: answer either question 2 or question 3 or question 4 (36 marks)

Section C: answer either question 5 or question 6 (48 marks)

Question types: multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response and extended prose

**Component 2: Human geography**

Section A: Global systems and global governance

Section B: Changing places

Section C: either Contemporary urban environments or Population and the environment or Resource security

**How it's assessed**

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes

120 marks

40% of A-level

**Questions**

Section A: answer all questions (36 marks)

Section B: answer all questions (36 marks)

Section C: answer either question 3 or question 4 or question 5 (48 marks)

Question types: multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response, extended prose

**Component 3: Geography fieldwork investigation**

Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.

**How it's assessed**

3,000–4,000 words

60 marks

20% of A-level marked by teachers  
moderated by AQA

**Tutor**

Martin Pick

[pickm@budmouth.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:pickm@budmouth.dorset.sch.uk)