

GEOGRAPHY

AQA A Level Geography

Code: 7037

Taught hours per week: 6 hours

Course Leader: Rob Hall

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Course Content

The AQA syllabus for A level challenges perceptions and stimulates students' investigative and analytical skills. Units reflect the world today as well as retaining the core content and knowledge of Geography. Both Physical and Human Geography are covered in this course and are assessed in 2 final exams of 2hr 30min each. These exams include multiple-choice, short answer, leveled medium level answers and extended prose.

The physical geography section will cover a range of areas as outlined below:

The water and carbon cycles where we will focus on the major stores of water and carbon at or near the Earth's surface and the dynamic cyclical relationships associated with them.

In the coastal systems and landscapes unit, we focus on coastal zones, which are dynamic environments in which landscapes develop by the interaction of winds, waves, currents and terrestrial and marine sediments. Student engagement with subject content fosters an informed appreciation of the beauty and diversity of coasts and their importance as human habitats.

The hazards unit focusses on the lithosphere and the atmosphere, which intermittently but regularly present hazards to human populations, often in dramatic and sometimes catastrophic fashion. By exploring the origin and nature of these hazards and the various ways in which people respond to them, students are able to engage with many dimensions of the relationships between people and the environment they occupy.

Within human geography the areas covered will include global systems and global governance, changing places and Population and the Environment.

Global systems and governance will focus on globalisation – the economic, political and social changes associated with technological and other driving forces which have been a key feature of global economy and society in recent decades. Changing places will investigate people's engagement with places, their experience of them and the qualities they ascribe to them which are of fundamental importance in their lives. Students acknowledge this importance and engage with how places are known and experienced, how their character is appreciated and the factors and processes which bear upon these matters.

Population and the environment focuses on the continuing growth of human populations, associated with economic development and changing lifestyles, which continues to be one of the defining features of the present era. This unit of study explores the relationships between population numbers, population health and wellbeing, migration, levels of economic development and the role and impact of the natural environment.





Essential Equipment/Costs

Whilst there is not an extensive equipment list for A Level Geography, there will be a need to provide ring binders, stationery including a scientific calculator and geometry equipment, core textbooks and compulsory attendance at a 5-day residential field trip.

Textbooks approximately £45

Optional membership to the Royal Geographical Society as a Young member (can attend lectures, access resources and digital copy of Geographical magazine) £46/yr or £80 2/yr membership

Learning Outcomes

Geography presents a range of learning opportunities for students and will include enquiry-based lessons, discussion seminars – for which prior reading will need to be undertaken and fieldwork opportunities.

Geographers need to be able to demonstrate understanding and analysis of the processes studied through a range of resources including graphical and cartographical sources. As well as being able to exemplify using up-to-date examples taken from sources such as government white papers, news and journal articles.

Students should be prepared to read widely around the subject.

In addition to the final exams 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.

'Geography explains the past, illuminates the present and prepares us for the future. What could be more important than that?'
M Palin

Progression and Careers

Geography provides a wealth of skills and knowledge which enables students to go on to further study in a wide range of degree areas. It provides a comprehensive bridge between the Sciences and the Arts and complements closely to a range of subject areas.

Degrees in Geography can be BA or BSc depending on your focus on Human or Physical Geography and can be paired with other subjects as a major or minor subject.

Entry requirements:

6 Grade minimum in Geography at GCSE level.

