

Geography Curriculum

KS5 Curriculum Summary

Introduction

The Geography curriculum at A level is an extremely varied and stimulating review of the world's landscapes, environments, cultures and economies, investigated through at various scales, from the local through to the international. We build on the knowledge that students have developed at GCSE to reconsider some familiar topics in far greater depth. However, much of the A level course covers entirely new content and addresses some of the most critical geographical issues of the day. For example, we consider the role of superpowers on the world stage, the degree to which tectonic hazards can be managed and evaluate whether contested regions such as the Crimea can ever satisfactorily be resolved.

The Department uses a range of approaches to teaching and aims to develop skills of presentation, research, critical thinking, problem solving and collaboration. We have access to a large catalogue of resources including a dedicated Geography Library which is available to our Sixth Form students.

At A level, students are encouraged to read widely around the subject and to extend their engagement with current events. The course is enriched by open discussion and there are many opportunities for students to explore their own interests and to find relevant links between Geography and their other A level subjects. Extra-curricular Geography societies and debate groups have proved extremely popular and frequently draw in students from across the Sixth Form.

Exam board: *Pearson Edexcel*

A-level Specification:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Geography/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/Pearson-Edexcel-GCE-A-level-Geography-specification-issue-5-FINAL.pdf>

Non-Examination Assessment

The Independent Investigation (NEA) at A level accounts for 20% of the qualification. Students must complete at least 4 full days of fieldwork which teaches them the practical skills, procedure, planning and delivery of a fieldwork investigation. This fieldwork component is covered by both the River Darent fieldwork in Term 1 and the Snowdonia fieldwork in Term 4 of Year 12. Students then complete their data collection independently over the summer between Years 12 and 13, finalising their written coursework report in the Autumn term of Year 13. Students can investigate an aspect of the A level course that they are most interested in and are given the scope to think as broadly and creatively as possible.

Year 12

Topic	Principal resources
The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity	<p>*Edexcel AS/A level Geography Book 2. Frost et al. (2016)</p> <p>*Geography for Edexcel A Level Year 2. Digby et a. (2017)</p> <p>*Edexcel A Level Geography Book 2 (3rd edition). Dunn et al. (2017)</p>
Fieldwork: Darent Basin	<p><i>Aims: To support understanding of the Water Cycle topic and to teach fieldwork techniques for the Independent Investigation.</i></p>
Coastal Landscapes and Change	<p>*Edexcel AS/A level Geography Book 1. Frost et al. (2016)</p> <p>*Geography for Edexcel A Level Year 1 and AS. Digby et al. (2016)</p> <p>*Edexcel A level Geography Book 1 (3rd edition). Dunn et al. (2016)</p>
Globalisation	<p>*Edexcel AS/A level Geography Book 1. Frost et al. (2016)</p> <p>*Geography for Edexcel A Level Year 1 and AS. Digby et al. (2016)</p> <p>*Edexcel A level Geography Book 1 (3rd edition). Dunn et al. (2016)</p>
Diverse Places	<p>*Edexcel AS/A level Geography Book 1. Frost et al. (2016)</p> <p>*Geography for Edexcel A Level Year 1 and AS. Digby et al. (2016)</p> <p>*Edexcel A level Geography Book 1 (3rd edition). Dunn et al. (2016)</p>
Fieldwork: Snowdonia residential	<p><i>Aims: Preparation and training for completing the Independent Investigation.</i></p>
Tectonic Processes and Hazards	<p>*Edexcel AS/A level Geography Book 1. Frost et al. (2016)</p> <p>*Geography for Edexcel A Level Year 1 and AS. Digby et al. (2016)</p> <p>*Edexcel A level Geography Book 1 (3rd edition). Dunn et al. (2016)</p>
Superpowers	<p>*Edexcel AS/A level Geography Book 2. Frost et al. (2016)</p> <p>*Geography for Edexcel A Level Year 2. Digby et a. (2017)</p> <p>*Edexcel A Level Geography Book 2 (3rd edition). Dunn et al. (2017)</p>
NEA preparation/data collection	<p>*RGS Guide to the NEA</p>

Year 13

Topic	Principal resources
NEA completion	*RGS <i>Guide to the NEA</i>
Migration, Identity and Sovereignty	* <i>Edexcel AS/A level Geography Book 2</i> . Frost et al. (2016) * <i>Geography for Edexcel A Level Year 2</i> . Digby et a. (2017) * <i>Edexcel A Level Geography Book 2 (3rd edition)</i> . Dunn et al. (2017)
The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security	* <i>Edexcel AS/A level Geography Book 2</i> . Frost et al. (2016) * <i>Geography for Edexcel A Level Year 2</i> . Digby et a. (2017) * <i>Edexcel A Level Geography Book 2 (3rd edition)</i> . Dunn et al. (2017)
Synoptic Paper (Paper 3) preparation	*Previous exam papers. * <i>Edexcel AS/A level Geography Book 2</i> . Frost et al. (2016)
Course revision	