

Geography 'A' Level

Geography A Level - WJEC Eduqas GCE A LEVEL

This Qualification aims to encourage learners to apply geographical knowledge, theory and skills to the world around them. In turn this will enable learners to develop a critical understanding of the world's people, places and environments in the 21st century.

During the course we focus on a variety of key specialised concepts relevant to the core and noncore content. These must include the concepts of causality, equilibrium, feedback, identity, inequality, interdependence, globalisation, mitigation and adaptation, representation, risk, resilience, sustainability, systems, and thresholds

Students are encouraged to work critically and independently as they embark upon a challenging curriculum and conclude in a research based topic of their choice.

Our 'A' Level Geography Roadmap



Course Details

Component 1 - Changing Landscapes and Changing Places - 20.5% of Qualification

Assessment: 1 Hour 45minute Written Exam

Section A - Changing Landscapes - Glaciers

Glaciated landscapes is a very interesting topic that is looked at across a very wide time period. Starting off looking at how the landscapes are formed during past ice ages - an aspect we look at on our 4 day field trip to the Lake District - followed by the continued melting of glaciers around the World and how this is relevant in today's anthropocene era (the effect of humans).

Section B - Changing Places

This compulsory theme focuses on places and their dynamic characteristics. 'Place' is a portion of geographic space to which meaning has been given by people. Different places have distinct characteristics due to their natural features and the landscapes that people have created. Places change over time and develop layered history. This history helps to shape the identity and 'personality' of a place. The identity is also shaped by the relationship to other places at a range of scales. A place, such as London's Trafalgar Square or the Lake District, may symbolise different things for different people. Places can evoke feelings of nostalgia, pride, hope, adventure, tranquillity or fear.

Component 2 - Global Systems and Global Governance - 27.5% of Qualification

Assessment: 2 Hour Written Exam

Section A - Global Systems- Water and Carbon Cycle

This compulsory theme is based on the physical processes which control the cycling of both water and carbon between land, oceans and the atmosphere. It takes place within a systems framework to emphasise the integrated nature of land, oceans and atmosphere, so that learners can gain an understanding of the key role played by the carbon and water cycles in supporting life on Earth. Systems operate at a range of temporal scales (seconds to millions of years) and space (plant to global) scales.

Section B - Global Governance: Change and Challenges

This compulsory theme covers global change and challenges. The first half of this topic focuses on processes and patterns of global migration, a global flow which has historically had a major impact on most countries. The second half of this topic is the global governance of the Earth's oceans. Global flows that cross oceans include container shipping, oil tankers, broadband networks and

illegal movements of people and goods. The oceans also function as a global commons for waste. Over time, nations have recognised the strategic importance of oceans. Throughout this section, you are encouraged to reflect on how connectivity has linked people, places and environments across the globe, involving movements of goods, people, technology and ideas. While globalisation is sometimes characterised as a borderless world, in reality a growing number of national and international laws and conventions have been introduced. These laws and conventions aim to manage global systems and the consequences they bring to people, places and environments around the world, which are often tied to issues of power, justice and inequality. Systems operate at a range of temporal scales and space (local to global) scales.

Section C - 21st Century Challenges

The assessment in this section will focus on learners' ability to draw together elements from across the course. Application of knowledge and understanding of at least two of the four themes in Components 1 and 2 will be in the assessment.

Component 3 - Contemporary Themes in Geography - 32% of Qualification

Assessment: 2 Hour 15 Minute Written Exam (3 Questions)

Section A - Tectonic Hazards - 1 Extended Writing Question

After building up knowledge throughout school a fairly easy topic to pick up. We build upon prior knowledge but go into much greater detail on theories of plate movements and case studies. Focus as expected is around Earthquakes and Volcanoes, which is also linked to Tsunamis. We take a look at the impacts they have on humans, in particular the 'risk' of living in a tectonic environment and how the idea of 'vulnerability' is different for all. Finally, 'How can we reduce the effects of these hazards?' and 'How do we respond following a tectonic hazard?' are key questions that are answered. There is also an opportunity to attend a London Conference listening to experts providing exam tips and more in depth knowledge.

Section B - Contemporary themes in Geography - 2 Essay Questions

- *Ecosystems*

Our first optional theme is looking at Ecosystems - again chosen on the basis that through science and geography KS3 and GCSE there should already be a baseline of knowledge before starting the topic.

Start off looking at the distribution of biomes across the World. Looking at the characteristics of them and making links as to why they are found where they are. Following this there are more in-depth looks at Tropical Rainforests and Tundra.

These in-depth studies of the biomes look at the structure of food chains, adaptations of plants and animals to survive and how nutrient cycles differ.

- ***Economic Growth and Challenge: China***

An exciting topic that allows the students to work through at their own pace looking at China as an up and coming country with an increasing influence globally. Allowing the students to work more independently with teacher guidance also allows students to develop their skills when looking beyond 6th Form Life. The topic covers the study of the contemporary geography of China and reasons for their emergence as a superpower. In order to understand their status, learners are encouraged to develop an understanding of the opportunities and constraints for economic development presented by India's or China's physical environment placed in the context of the demographic, social, cultural, economic and political changes occurring in each nation at a range of spatial and temporal scales. Threats to India's or China's sustainable development include environmental degradation, issues of water, energy and food security and growing inequalities. Further success for India's or China's growing economies and increasing global status is now dependent on achieving sustainable development with an improved balance between economic growth and environmental conservation.

Component 4 - Independent Investigation - 20% of Qualification

Assessment: Non Exam Assessment - 3000 to 4000 Words

We take a local field trip to Bushey High Street followed by a 4 day trip to the Lake District. It is in the Lake District where the students will start their independent investigation with the help of the staff at the Field Study Centre in Blencathra.

Creating your own unique investigation title gives students lots of flexibility to focus on aspects that they enjoy and want to study further. With sessions in a fully equipped classroom at the field study centre, online resources provided by the centre and around a day and a half for collection of primary data, if time is used well you can already have 20% of the course finished by February.

Support Materials

The recommended text books for each module are here, all of which can be found on the Hodder Education website link below:

<https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/geography?eb=98,74&l=149>

These books will provide you additional information including exam questions with answers and/or perfect answers. They can help with misunderstandings from lessons as they have additional images and information to be added to notes or can be used for pre learning of topics. Not all books need to be purchased however I would highly recommend getting the My Revision Notes identified below - the rest are optional.

Recommended
Purchase →

