GEOGRAPHY

Entry Requirement: Details of the requirements for entry are here.

Examination Board: EDEXCEL (Specification A)

Geography at Parmiter's is taught to ensure young people are fully prepared with transferable skills, knowledge and understanding to make sense of their world and to face the challenges that will shape our future societies and environments at the local, national and global scales. The course includes compulsory field trips to reinforce learning from the classroom and allow for data collection for the assessed coursework task for Unit 4.

Course Content - Overview and Assessment

Unit 1: Physical Environment (course code: 9GE0/01) Water, Carbon, Tectonics and Coastal Landscapes

Paper 1 is fascinating because it explores the fundamental systems that shape the Earth and influence life on our planet. The water and carbon cycles are central to understanding how ecosystems function, how humans interact with natural systems, and how global challenges like climate change develop. Tectonic processes bring the study of hazards such as earthquakes and volcanoes to life, helping students understand their causes, impacts, and how societies can prepare for and respond to them. Coastal landscapes, meanwhile, show the dynamic relationship between natural processes and human activity, where physical forces and management strategies constantly interact. Together, these topics help students appreciate the power of Earth's natural systems and the importance of sustainable management in the face of growing environmental pressures.

Assessment: Written examination: 2 hours, 30% of the qualification and marked out of 90 raw marks.

Unit 2: Human Environment (Course code: 9GE0/02) Globalisation, Regenerating Places, Superpowers and Human Health, Rights and Intervention

Paper 2 is particularly engaging because it focuses on human geography and the interconnectedness of societies across the world. The study of globalisation reveals how economies, cultures, and people are becoming increasingly linked, highlighting both opportunities and inequalities. Regenerating Places gives students the chance to investigate how communities can be revitalised, combining economic, social, and environmental approaches to create more sustainable futures. The Superpowers topic adds a political dimension, examining how influence, competition, and cooperation shape international relations. Finally, Human Health, Rights, and Intervention allows students to explore ethical and humanitarian issues, from tackling disease to protecting human rights during conflict. Together, these topics help students see how geography connects to politics, economics, and society, giving them a powerful understanding of the global challenges and responsibilities faced by nations and individuals today.

Assessment: Written examination: 2 hours, 30% of the qualification and marked out of 90 raw marks.

Unit 3: Synoptic Exam (Course code: 9GE0/03)

The specification contains three synoptic themes within the compulsory content areas: Players, Attitudes and Actions; Futures and uncertainties and a synoptic investigation will be based on a geographical issue within a place-based context that links to the three synoptic themes and is rooted in two or more of the compulsory content areas.

Assessment: Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes, 20% of the qualification and marked out of 60 raw marks. A resource booklet (provided as part of the examination) will contain information about the geographical issue.

Unit 4: Coursework – Independent Investigation (9GEO/04)

- The student defines a question or issue for investigation, relating to the compulsory or optional content. The topic may relate to any aspect of geography contained within the specification.
- The student's investigation will incorporate fieldwork data (collected individually or as part of a group during 4 one-day field trips in the summer term of Year 12) and own research and/or secondary data.
    - The fieldwork which forms the focus and context of the individual investigation may be either human, physical or integrated physical-human.
    - The investigation report will evidence independent analysis and evaluation of data, presentation of data findings and extended writing.
    - Students will be expected to show evidence that they have used both quantitative and qualitative data to support their independent investigation as appropriate to the particular environment and/or location.

Assessment

The investigation report is internally assessed and externally moderated. The student will produce a written report of approximately 4000 words. It is worth 20% of the qualification and marked out of 70 raw marks.

Teaching and Learning Methods

A wide variety of teaching and learning methods are used throughout the course, including class discussions, debates, group work, independent research, and presentations. Students engage with a range of sources, from data sets and maps to articles, case studies, and multimedia resources, which are then applied to directed assignments that help prepare them for essay questions and classroom debates. Independent research and preparation form the core of study, allowing students to develop key academic skills such as note-taking, essay planning and writing, critical source evaluation, and examination technique. Alongside this, students are introduced to a wide range of geographical skills, including data analysis, statistical techniques, interpretation of graphs and tables, GIS mapping, and fieldwork methods. These skills not only prepare students for assessment but also help them to think critically, handle information with accuracy, and apply their learning to real-world contexts. Homework is set regularly and varies depending on the nature of the tasks, ensuring students build confidence and independence in their studies.

Homework
The aim is for 2-3 pieces of homework to be set per week by each teacher. This work will consist of a combination of past paper examination questions, textbook activities, report writing and personal research tasks.

Trips and Visits
As previously mentioned, 4 compulsory one-day trips in the summer term of Year 12 (costing approximately £70 in total), which support preparation for the Unit 4 NEA.

There is also an optional enrichment 4 day field trip to Iceland during October half term of Year 13, costing approximately £1200. More details will be shared once students are enrolled on the course.

Materials
The purchase of the Edexcel endorsed Year 1 and Year 2 A Level textbooks will be required. The cost of each textbook is approximately £30.

Key Features

Studying Edexcel A Level Geography is important because it develops a deep understanding of the relationship between people, places, and the environment, as well as the natural and human processes that shape the world. The course encourages students to think critically about pressing global issues such as climate change, urbanisation, globalisation, and sustainability. Through case studies and geographical debates, students gain the ability to analyse real-world challenges and consider different perspectives, which makes the subject highly relevant to contemporary society. Geography also bridges the sciences and the humanities, providing a balanced academic foundation that supports a wide range of future study and career opportunities.

The course is carefully designed to build both subject knowledge and transferable skills. Students are encouraged to investigate, question, and evaluate information, whether through independent research, data analysis, or fieldwork. These activities nurture independent thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making skills that are highly valued in higher education. The flexibility of the subject also means that it links well to disciplines such as environmental science, politics, economics, engineering, and international relations. As a result, geography opens doors to careers where spatial awareness, critical thinking, and an understanding of global systems are essential, such as town planning, disaster management, environmental consultancy, and public policy.

Students also develop a wide range of practical and analytical techniques throughout the course, including the use of GIS mapping, statistical methods, data interpretation, and report writing. These skills are attractive to employers across many sectors, particularly those focused on sustainability, infrastructure, climate, and community development. For example, geography provides a strong foundation for careers in meteorology, climate research, sustainability consultancy, urban planning, and environmental engineering, as well as roles in local politics and policy-making. By studying geography, students not only build a versatile skillset but also gain the knowledge and opportunities to contribute to solving some of the most significant challenges facing society today.