



# GEOGRAPHY

A-LEVEL

**Examination Board: EDEXCEL**

## Course content:

This 4-unit specification allows a balance between students' own particular physical, human and/or environmental interests and key geographical topics that provide them with the knowledge, understanding and skills for further study at higher education or for employment. It also includes an independent investigation, where students can develop their own preferences within the exam board framework. Relevant and engaging to today's Geographers this course allows students to engage critically with real world issues and places.

The specification has been designed to allow geographers the flexibility to build programmes that suit their own particular interests and needs. Fieldwork and research skills are a key feature of Unit 4. In Y12, there are field trips to Swanage to study Dynamic Coasts, and Gloucester Quays to study Urban and Rural Regeneration.

## Assessment:

The assessment programme is outlined below:

A LEVEL All examinations take place in the final year	
<p><b>UNIT 1: 'Dynamic Landscapes'</b>  <b>1 Examination (2 Hours 15): 30% of A-Level</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tectonic Processes and Hazards.</li> <li>• Landscape Systems, Processes and Change.</li> <li>• The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity.</li> <li>• The Carbon Cycle and Energy Insecurity.</li> <li>• Climate Change Futures.</li> <li>• Coastal Landscapes and Change.</li> </ul>	<p><b>UNIT 3: 'Physical systems and sustainability'</b>  <b>1 Examination (2 Hours 15): 20% of A-Level</b>            3 Synoptic themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Players.</li> <li>• Attitudes and actions.</li> <li>• Futures and uncertainties</li> </ul> <p>Students complete 3 sections. A resource booklet will contain information about the geographical issue and students answer all questions. Questions are short open and resource-linked. Questions are worth 6, 15 and longer extended 18-marks. Calculators can be used.</p>
<p><b>UNIT 2: 'Dynamic Places'</b>  <b>1 Examination (2 Hours 15): 30% of A-Level</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Globalisation.</li> <li>• Shaping Places.</li> <li>• Superpowers.</li> <li>• Global Development and Connections.</li> <li>• Regenerating Places and Diverse Places Superpowers.</li> <li>• Health, Human Rights and Intervention; Migration, Identity and Sovereignty.</li> </ul>	<p><b>UNIT 4: 'Independent Geographical Research'</b>  <b>Non-examined assessment (externally moderated):</b>  <b>20% of A-Level</b>  <b>3,000-4,000 word written report</b></p> <p>Students select a question or issue for investigation relating to any part of the taught content from units 1, 2 and 3. Students need to evidence the use of both quantitative and qualitative data for both primary and secondary data collection methods.</p>

## Skills acquired:

- Non-routine problem solving
- Systems thinking
- Critical thinking
- Research and data assimilation

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## **GEOGRAPHY** *(Continued)*

- Analytical/interpretational skills
- Enhancement of ICT capabilities/ competency
- Synoptic links for other subjects.
- Research and out-of-classroom work including fieldwork techniques, as appropriate to the topics selected.

### **Links with other subjects:**

Geography complements Physics, Biology, Maths, Business, English and Languages. Even if not chosen as a primary subject it is an ideal second or third choice to support others and is well received by universities.

### **Possible careers:**

Students of Geography have progressed on to careers in the following fields: Aviation; Engineering; Natural Hazard Research and Management; Medicine (i.e. tropical medicines and VSO work); Town, City and Transport Planning; Property Development; Journalism and Travel Writing; Media and Broadcasting.

### **Prior experience:**

This course is open to all students but having taken Geography at GCSE and achieving Grade 6 in addition to a Grade 5 in English and Maths is an advantage.

### **Student comments:**

*"An excellent choice for me - a really good balance of written and practical work."*

*"It has been well worthwhile and gives an excellent opportunity to study 'the real world'."*

*"A definite must if you are looking for a really interesting subject."*