

Why choose this subject?

Geography is the study of the earth's landscapes, peoples, places and environments. Geographers explore the physical properties of Earth's surface and the spread of human societies across it. They also examine how human culture interacts with the natural environment, and the way that locations and places can have an impact on people. Geography seeks to understand where things are found, why they are there, and how they develop and change over time. Fundamentally, geography is about understanding the world in which we live.

Geography is both useful and unusual in bridging the social sciences (human geography) with the natural sciences (physical geography). It combines very well with the study of a wide range of arts or science-based subjects, and is a highly-respected course by universities.

Course details

The course is divided into the two main areas of geographical enquiry: physical and human.

Within **physical geography**, you'll be studying topics such as water and carbon cycles, deserts, coasts and glaciers, ecosystems and environmental hazards (such as volcanoes, storms, earthquakes and tsunamis).

Within **human geography**, you will be studying topics such as globalisation, urban environments, population, and resource security.

Fieldwork is a course requirement and all students need to partake in at least four days of fieldwork. Some of this may be completed on day trips to local sites of interest and the remainder will be fulfilled through a residential trip further afield. Students will submit a fieldwork report of 3000-4000 words which will be marked internally and moderated by the exam board.

Who is this course for?

This course is for people who are interested in the world around them, with a strong interest in the relationship between people and the natural environment. You should be a confident essay writer, who is also able to work scientifically and someone who enjoys finding links between the different areas of your learning.

You do not have to have studied GCSE geography in order to take this course (although if you have, we would expect you to have achieved at least a 6 grade), however we will typically expect you to have gained at least a 6 in GCSE English to take this course.

Studying geography at A-level keeps your options wide-open in terms of future study. You may be heading for a career in the environmental or tourism sectors, or simply studying geography as a complementary subject to your other A-levels (whether these are sciences, arts or humanities subjects).

Our approach

The beauty of studying geography is that at any given moment there are hundreds of events taking place that can be analysed, discussed and understood using the theories and methods of geographical enquiry. Our school's track record of outstanding teaching through high quality discussion will be evident in the Geography A-level course, as we use current affairs to bring to life the theories and scientific processes that form the foundation of the curriculum.

Our emphasis on tackling real world problems and doing work that is of authentic value to the world means that geography students will have the opportunity to research, analyse and tackle genuine challenges in the local community, whether these are human or environmental. Our ever-increasing network of partners, including local organisations such as London Legacy Development Corporation (the branch of government that manages the Olympic Park) means that there will be a wide range of exciting opportunities that go beyond the A-level course.

Higher education and career opportunities

At A-level, geography taken with sciences supports applications for almost any science-based university course; taken with humanities geography supports an equally wide range of university courses such as business, law, media, politics and philosophy.

The close link between the subject and the world around us makes for a long and varied list of related careers including town and transport planning, energy, environmental conservation, surveying, tourism, and public services.

However, the knowledge and skills that geography develops are wide-ranging and highly transferable, so studying geography does not rule out any potential career paths.

Introductory reading

Online and in print:

National Geographic Society - for news, in-depth articles and amazing photography

The Economist - for articles about the human side of geography

Crash Course in Ecology on Youtube is a great introduction to the interaction between human beings and our planet through a series of 10 minute videos.

Books:

The 'Very Short Introductions' series are a good way to learn about a new topic quickly and recommended titles for geography are 'Geography', 'The Earth', 'Deserts', 'Geopolitics' and 'Climate Change'.

Geography: Ideas in Profile by Danny Dorling and Carl Lee