



Subject: GEOGRAPHY

Exam Board: Edexcel

Levels available: AS (1 year) and A2 (Additional 2nd year)

Subject Leader: Mr J Bailey

Course Information:

* What do I need to know or be able to do before choosing this subject?

You should have obtained 5 Grades A*- C at GCSE including at least Grade C in Geography. Students must have a real interest in people and places and geographical issues from local and global scales. A commitment to research, which may involve library work, interviews, questionnaires and fieldwork, is essential. One-day field trips are organised plus lecture visits and a one-week residential field trip in Spain in Year 12 and an opportunity to visit the North American continent in Year 13.

* What do the courses consist of and how will I be assessed?

AS (Advanced Subsidiary) Specification

This is the first half of the full A level course. The final grade will count towards entry to Further/ Higher Education.

The AS level is made up of three units:

Unit 1: Changing Landforms & their Management **33.3% AS or 16.6% A level**

Students study the hydrological cycle, and the processes affecting landforms in river and coastal environments. The management of these landforms is a key part of the Unit.

Assessment: written examination of 1 hour 30 mins.

Unit 2: Managing Change in Human Environments **33.3% AS or 16.6% A level**

This unit focuses on processes operating in rural and urban environments. These are studied in MEDCs and LEDCs with an emphasis on the future of rural-urban interactions.

Assessment: written examination of 1 hour 30 mins.

Unit 3: Environmental Investigation **33.3% AS or 16.6% A level**

This coursework involves small group or individual research over an extended period of time. It should link to Units 1 and 2. Proposals will need to be approved by the examination board.

Assessment: a 2500 word investigation.

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Course Information:

The ADVANCED LEVEL (AS + A2) Specification

The full Advanced level qualification is made up of the 3 AS Units plus 3 more Units studied at A2 level. If you decide to continue with the second half of the course in Year 13 you will study the following additional Units.

Unit 4: Global Challenge

15% of A level

This unit focuses on global challenges. It includes physical themes of weather/climate and ecosystem management. It also considers human themes of population growth and migration.

Assessment: A 2 hour written examination.

Unit 5: Researching Global Futures

15% of A level

Two options are studied in this unit. One is from natural environments e.g. natural hazards. The other is from human environments e.g. feeding the world's people.

Assessment: Physical Option: a research essay under exam conditions using pre-released material. The examination will be 1 hour 20 mins. duration. The essay is worth 7.5%.

Human Option: a 1500 word report worth 7.5%.

Unit 6: Synoptic Unit hour

20% of A level

This unit draws together skills, knowledge and understanding from the whole course. It gives students opportunities in problem-solving, decision making and the analysis of issues.

Assessment: A 2 hour issues-analysis examination using pre-released material.

*** How could I develop Key Skills by doing this course?**

As well as covering the study of **Geography**, the AS/A2 courses will enable you to develop key skills. Your teacher will let you know when a particular piece of work also accounts for Key Skills assessment as well as for **Geography** assessment. You will need to keep evidence of this work in a Portfolio for assessment later if you wish to gain a Key Skills qualification. During this course examples of key skills could include:

Communication e.g. a presentation using a variety of communication techniques.

Application of Number e.g. data/census analysis, questionnaire refining.

Information & Communication Technology e.g. researching a disaster on the Internet.

Improving own learning & performance e.g. target setting; review meetings.

Problem solving e.g. working on past problem-solving papers and topical case studies.

Working with others e.g. fieldwork in groups; simulation of a planning application.

*** What could I go on to do after the course?**

Geography is a wide-ranging subject which can be used to follow degrees in Human Geography, Physical Geography, Geology, Town Planning, Environmental Science and Leisure & Tourism. It can lead to careers involving the management of people, the environment and resources in the fields of public administration, teaching, planning, tourism, transport and environmental organisations.