

Geography

A level – AQA

Course teachers: Miss Evans and Mrs French

What's it all about?

The department offers the opportunity to study for advanced level geography over two years.

Geography is a broad based subject straddling both science and the arts, illustrated by the fact that at university it can be awarded either a BSc or a BA. It is therefore a popular choice for those who wish to take it either side of the spectrum.

Geography requires students to be interested in the world around them and aims to develop an awareness of patterns and processes in both physical and human contexts. A geographer will develop skills of enquiry, as an ability to select and apply relevant knowledge and information in a variety of ways is encouraged, through academic study, discussion and personal observation and measurement in the field. Skills of observation, analysis, representation and interpretation of data from primary and secondary sources are learned and applied in relation to theories, concepts, principles and processes that have been developed to help explain the structure and distribution of geographical phenomena.

What will I learn on this course?

The A level course is examined with 2 papers worth 80%. The final 20% is the individual investigation.

Paper 1: Physical geography

Section A: **Water and carbon cycles (36 marks)**

Section B: **Coastal systems and landscapes (36 marks)**

Section C: **Hazards (48 marks)**

How it is assessed: Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes; • 120 marks; • 40% of A-level

- Question types: short answer, levels of response and extended prose

Paper 2: Human geography

Section A: **Global systems and global governance (36 marks)**

Section B: **Changing places (36 marks)**

Section C: **Population and the environment (48 marks)**

How it is assessed: Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes; • 120 marks, • 40% of A-level

- Question types: short answer, levels of response, extended prose

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Component 3: Geography fieldwork investigation

What's assessed?

Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.

How it's assessed: • 3 000 – 4 000 words; • 60 marks; • 20% of A-level; • marked by teachers; • moderated by AQA

What do your current students say?

From former Year 13 students:

'In my experience, A-level geography is such a varied and exciting subject to take! It is a step up from GCSE in a way where it doesn't just cover rocks and rivers but looks at real world situations that affect you and your future. For example, my favourite topic Global governance covers a wide range of current affairs and companies such as Coca-cola or Apple and gives a huge insight into how our world works, super interesting!'

'When you eventually do choose A-level geography, there will of course be some topics that are challenging like in any subject- personally, I found that I struggle at understanding certain processes in the Hazards topic. However, the teachers always provide great support that you can't always find at other colleges/sixth forms and they always make sure that the lessons are fun and engaging.'

'Just wanted to say a huge thank you for the support over the past two years. Studying geography has really made me have a wider understanding of the world and be more attentive to what is happening around me. Besides the geographical knowledge I have learnt and will keep with me, thank you both for teaching me to be confident in my abilities and to push myself to be the best I can be.'

'Getting a B was the biggest shock of my life and I was the world's happiest bloke. No doubt I couldn't have got anywhere near the grade if it wasn't for the amazing teaching we got from all the geography staff. I was lucky enough to get on the course I wanted to do. Thank you again, I had a great two years in geography.'

Is there anything else I need to know?

Trips and extracurricular opportunities: a residential trip to North Wales, virtual reality experiences, university visits.

Geography offers entry into a number of fields where the subject may be used directly. This includes town and country planning, transport management, tourism, teaching, the armed forces, surveying and cartography. It is also a subject that develops skills in communication, literacy and numeracy and helps encourage analytical and problem solving techniques and it is therefore valued in many areas of business and commerce.

Who can I contact for further information?

Subject leader for geography, revans@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk

Collect the flyer from the Geography department