

A-level Geography

Board and Specification: **Edexcel 9GEO**

Head of department: **Mrs A Harris** (a.harris@cwlc.email)

Subject specific entry requirements:

- Grade 6 in GCSE Geography is desirable (Grade 5 in GCSE Geography will be considered on an individual basis)
- Grade 4 or above in GCSE Mathematics
- Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Literature and/or Language.

What skills are required of students?

A-level Geography builds on the skills developed at GCSE. There will be a mixture of shorter and longer essay style answers. Fieldwork also includes data collection, manipulation and analysis along with graphical and statistical skills. Students should have, and will develop, an interest in contemporary issues and global events.

Course Details

A-level Geography is a mixture of human and physical geography and includes the following topics:

- Coastal Landscapes and Change
- Tectonics Processes and Hazards
- The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
- The Carbon Cycle and Energy Insecurity
- Regenerating Places
- Globalisation
- Superpowers
- Health, Human Rights and Intervention
- Geographical Investigation: Fieldwork is essential and will include a residential trip

Module titles:

Physical Geography:

2 hour 15 minutes written exam, 30% of A-level grade

“Life is like a landscape. You live in the midst of it but can only describe it only from the vantage point of distance” - Charles Lindbergh

This is the integrated study of earth surface processes, landforms and the resultant landscapes. An understanding of earth surface processes, together with their associated transfers of energy and movements of materials underpins the landscape system topic. Topics studied include Tectonic Processes and Hazards, Coastal Landscapes and Change, The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity and The Carbon Cycle and Energy Insecurity.

Human Geography

2 hour 15 minutes written exam, 30% of A-level grade

“Our lack of thinking about place and space risks turning challenges into crises” - Royal Town Planning Institute UK.

The world around us is shaped by humans; a variety of examples and case studies will be used to explore a range of contrasting places. Topics studied include Globalisation, Regenerating Places, Superpowers and Health, Human Rights and Intervention.

Skills and Synopticity

2 hours 15 minutes written exam, 20% of A-level grade

Assessment of geographical skills and synoptic understanding. This will test a variety of geographical skills and link to the core topics studied.

Non-examined Assessment (NEA)

The student will produce a written report of 3000–4000 words, 20% of A-level grade

The investigation report is internally assessed and externally moderated.

All students must undertake 4 days of fieldwork. From this an independent study is completed, based on a question or issue that is of particular interest to the student. This will involve a short residential field trip, usually in the summer term. The cost is expected to be in the region of £200.

What kinds of work will you do in class and at home?

High quality work will be expected as there is a lot of content, so keeping up to date with notes is crucial. Students will be expected to read around the issues covered in class – a mixture of educational journals and newspapers, as well as course text books. Students will also be expected to carry out research - some of which will be on current issues - involving reading newspapers, watching news programmes and researching via other media outlets. Group and paired work can also be required and might involve preparing a class presentation. Students will be expected to write longer answers to exam questions than might have been expected at GCSE, together with detailed essay plans, both of which will be handed in.

What other A-levels does your subject connect well with?

Geography connects well with most A-level subjects: for example, Mathematics, sciences, humanities and English.

It is considered to be both a science and a humanities subject and is therefore a ‘facilitating subject’ for Russell Group universities.

What types of university course will be helped by this A-level?

Geography has many transferable skills opening up a wide range of university courses from both sciences and the arts, making it unique in that it bridges subjects and can lead to a wide range of careers. For example, courses in science, oceanography, geology, ICT, business, law, media, politics and philosophy, travel and tourism, accounting and journalism. It is the only subject considered as both a ‘science’ as well as an ‘art’.