



A-level Geography

Board and Specification: **Edexcel 9GEO**

Head of Department: **Mrs L Hood (L.hood@cwlc.email)**

Subject specific entry requirements:

- Grade 6 in GCSE Geography if taken at GCSE
- Grade 5 or above in GCSE Mathematics
- Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Literature and/or Language.
- If Geography is not taken at GCSE then grade 6 in 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 which includes topics such as:

- Water and carbon cycles
- Glaciated landscapes and change
- Tectonics processes and hazards
- Regenerating places
- Globalisation
- Superpowers
- A geographical Investigation: fieldwork is essential and will include a residential trip.

Modules 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 tectonics, glaciated landscapes, the water and carbon cycles.

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, regeneration, superpowers, health, human rights and intervention.

Skills and Synoptic

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 one of the core topics studied (tectonics, carbon and water cycle, globalisation or superpowers)

Independent Investigation

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 residential fieldtrip; usually in the summer term. The cost is expected to be in the region of £450

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.

Research - some of which will be on current issues, which will involve reading newspapers; watching news programmes and researching via other media outlets.

Group and paired work which might involve preparing a class presentation.

Students will be expected to write exam answers – which might involve handing in a detailed essay plan as well as the essay itself.

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 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’.