



# Geography

**Awarding Body: Edexcel**

**Level: A-Level**

## Introduction

This is an issues-based approach to studying geography, enabling students to explore and evaluate contemporary geographical questions and issues that we read about in the papers, such as exponential world population growth, consequences of globalisation, responses to tectonic hazards, and conflicts over energy and water supplies and climate change and how we are planning to meet these challenges. The world we live in is changing. Geography allows you to see why and how it is changing.

This course specification content gives students the opportunity to develop an in-depth understanding of physical and human geography, the complexity of people and environment questions and issues, and to become critical, reflective and independent learners. The content is framed by enquiry questions that encourage an investigative and evaluative approach to learning. It will enhance communication skills, literacy and numeracy, IT skills, spatial awareness, team working, problem solving and other insights into global issues.

The subject is broadly split into two areas: human geography and physical geography. Human geography deals with how people and the environment interact. It also looks at how people and groups move and live in the world around us. Physical Geography on the other hand is all about the scientific aspects of our world, with an emphasis on physical systems, geology and landforms. This specification will encourage students to make links between different geographical themes, ideas and concepts through synoptic themes embedded in the compulsory content, and it builds on the understanding developed at KS4, avoiding unnecessary repetition while also ensuring that learners new to the subject are appropriately supported.

## Year 12 content

- Area of Study 1: Dynamic Landscapes
  - Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards
  - Topic 2: Landscape Systems, Processes and Change (we pick Option Topic 2B: Coastal Landscapes and Change)
- Area of Study 2: Dynamic Places
  - Topic 3: Globalisation
  - Topic 4: Shaping Places (We pick Option 4A: Regenerating Places)

## Year 13 content

- Area of Study 3: Physical Systems and Sustainability
  - Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
  - Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security
- Area of study 4: Human Systems and Geopolitics
  - Topic 7: Superpowers
  - Topic 8: Global Development and Connections (we pick Option 8B: Health, Human Rights and Intervention)

## Assessment

The course is formally assessed through 3 exams in Year 13\*. Each exam is 2 hours 15 minutes and cover the following content:

- Paper 1: Human geography. Topics 1, 2, 5 and 6. 30% of your final grade.
- Paper 2: Physical geography. Topics 3, 4, 7 and 8. 30% of your final grade.
- Paper 3: Synoptic Paper. The interconnections across all topics. 20% of your final grade.

\*You will also carry out fieldwork, and have to complete an Independent Investigation worth 20% of your final grade.

## What you need

At least a grade 5 in GCSE Geography and a grade 5 in English Language or English Literature.

## Career and further study

Geography is considered to be a facilitating subject, allowing progression into a wide variety of future career paths. It is one of the most employable subjects available to students, mainly due to the fact employers and universities look upon the subject favourably. This is because of the broad skills that the subject offers including English writing, mathematics and problem solving, groups work and technological skills. Careers can focus on the traditional geographical field such as town planning, sustainability related roles and conservation. Equally, non-geographical careers are accessible such as law, advertising, journalism, and accounting.

## Trips and other costs

You are expected to fund your place on the compulsory residential field course (approx. £325), and purchase your own textbooks. Further enrichment and academic development trips may be offered throughout the course.

- Year 12 textbook - <https://global.oup.com/education/product/9780198366454/?region=uk>
- Year 13 textbook - <https://global.oup.com/education/product/9780198366485/?region=uk>

## Further information

Further information regarding the course can be found on the Edexcel Geography A Level Specification Page <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/geography-2016.html>