

## Geography A-level

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

### Where do I start?

You must meet the minimum entry requirement for Wootton Park VI. You will have studied GCSE Geography and obtained a level 6 or above. You have also achieved a level 6 or above in English. **Mathematics to level 4 is also advisable due to the statistical elements in the course.**

### Geography – about the subject:

Geography is the study of the world we live in, its environments, landscapes and natural disasters, and the relationship between people and environments.

Geography is a relevant, dynamic and rigorous subject that helps you to make sense of the world around you. At A-level a variety of topics are studied across both human and physical geography that help you to engage critically with some of the most pressing challenges facing the world today.

There has never been a better or more important time to study A-level Geography. Dealing with vital issues such as climate change, migration, environmental destruction, social issues and natural hazards. Learners enjoy the scope of the material they cover in geography, the insights it can provide into the world around us and the highly contemporary nature of the issues it tackles.

As well as the exciting topic content, you will also develop a wide range of skills at A level; working with images, factual text, digital data, numerical and spatial data. Fieldwork provides an exciting opportunity to study processes, systems and interconnections in both human and physical geography. Through the completion of your coursework, you develop skills to select research questions, apply relevant techniques and skills, and find appropriate ways to analyse and communicate your findings. As well as developing these desirable skills for employment, fieldwork experiences at A-level can also open up opportunities to travel further afield to fascinating destinations.

### What type of learner chooses Geography?

To study A-level Geography, you need to have an enquiring and open mind. Geography is a study of the world around us and you need to be aware of global issues. You need to be able to debate issues such as migration and to think about them from political and social perspectives as well. Your opinion is important, but you also need to think about debates from other people's perspective.

You will need to have a basic grasp of maths and the ability to interpret graphs and analyse them is fundamental, along with basic maps skills. There is a lot of information and new vocabulary to learn, so you will need a good memory.



You will learn case studies on specific topics and you will develop the skill of writing longer answers clearly and succinctly.

### What will I study on the course?

Year 1 Topics: Tectonic Processes and Hazards, Globalisation, Coastal Landscapes and Change, Diverse Places.

Year 2 Topics: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security, Health, Human Rights and Intervention, The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity, Superpowers

In addition, the course requires a compulsory residential field trip within the UK, which will be assessed through an NEA, a fieldwork enquiry worth 20% of the total A level.

### How will I be assessed?

Learners will be assessed termly through exam questions and also using a reading diary, which you will complete weekly in addition to any homework/self-study that they complete.

### What are the career/higher education prospects?

Geographers are very employable, with the skills, knowledge and understanding acquired in its study being held in high regard by employers. The nature of working lives is changing. It is less likely that you will spend all of your working life in one organisation or even in the same sector. If your career path is to be varied, you will need transferable skills and flexibility. Geography provides you with these.

Geography is part of the academic group of English Baccalaureate subjects and the Russell Group of universities has recognised A-Level geography as one of their preferred 'facilitating subjects' - supporting an application into a wide range of degree courses.

The knowledge and transferable skills that geographers gain from their degree studies are highly relevant to the workplace; a 2010 poll of over 200,000 graduates from UK universities found that those with geography degrees had the lowest rate of unemployment six months after graduation of any discipline polled.

You will find geographers working in every sector of the economy including finance, local businesses, not-for-profit organisations, significant research or as key decision makers in local and national government, highlighting the range of possibilities for geographers.