A Level Geography Eduqas

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LINEAR

Why study Geography?

Geography really is everything! Planet Earth is our home; it is awesome, diverse, inspiring and ever changing. Studying Geography invites us to participate more fully in the excitement, enjoyment and challenge of this dynamic world. It allows students to better understand the places we live in, why they matter and how they are connected to a globalised world. Geography draws from across the physical, cultural, economic and political spheres to illuminate key issues for the present and the future, explored at all scales from the personal to the local and the global. Students will learn a wide range of geographical skills across the two-year course including graphical and statistical analysis, research and decision making. These skills are transferable to other subjects and one of the reasons why Geography is considered to be a 'facilitating subject' and highly sought after by universities and employees alike.

About the course

Geography A Level develops a student's knowledge and critical understanding of the people, places and environments of the 21st century. We study seven units over the two-years which include four Physical and three Human units. Students complete a 4000-word personal investigation in Year 13.

Year 12

In Year 12 we study two Physical topics. The coastal system teaches about the natural landforms in our environment and the physical processes which form them, including the human use and management of these fragile landscapes. The second unit studies Earth Sciences and the Tectonic processes that continue to shape our planet. Students will develop an in-depth understanding of earthquakes and volcanoes, their structure, the dangers they pose. We also evaluate the challenges these offer, and how we try to mitigate their dangers to human life and development. The Human unit, Changing Places researches the identity of places and people around the world and the way that this identity can be changed and influenced. This unit takes a broader look at the concept of place, and includes aspects of Economics and Sociology. When investigating the concept of place, we explore Cornish culture in this unit.

Year 13

In Year 13 we focus on Water and Carbon Cycles; investigating the crucial regulating systems of our planet, the way they influence life and the way humans can interfere with and manage these cycles. We also learn about the inter-related nature of these vital natural systems and how they impact on each other. The final Physical unit studies Ecosystems; this centres on the way they function and interact with the other natural systems learned over the course. Students will learn about the unique nature of two systems and how we impact upon them. There are two Human topics in Year13. Global Systems and Governance (e.g. Trade, population and migration and human rights) teaches the interaction between people on the planet at an international level and the impact this has on development, population and trade.

The final unit investigates China, and takes a detailed look at this growing world superpower. The unit covers Physical, Political, Social and Economic issues and developments within China. Students develop a wider understanding of the country and its global role in issues such as climate change, trade, international relations and politics.

Assessment

The main assessment is through three external examinations in Year 13. 20% of the assessment is through a personal coursework investigation. There is an emphasis on critical thinking and application of knowledge and understanding, especially in the final exam which involves 38 and 45 mark essay.

Entry criteria

A grade 6 at GCSE, and 4 other passes at grade 5 in other subjects (including English).

Outside the classroom

Fieldwork is an integral part of the course. We run two local fieldwork experiences covering both human (Exeter) and physical themes (Penhale dunes). Further opportunities are offered with a two day residential trip to Liverpool to study urban regeneration and the potential to visit Iceland in 2024 to investigate tectonic and geomorphological hazards.