

What is Geography ?

Geography is a broad and ever-changing subject. It includes the study of the effects of physical forces on the earth in the past and the present, and anticipates the future. It is about the relationship between people and their environment.

'Without Geography, knowledge about the earth is fragmented and unsatisfactory' (R. J. Johnson).

Geographers are continually dealing with the real world and the problems people face - on a global scale, acid rain, famine, earthquakes, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions but also on a local scale, homelessness, river pollution or traffic congestion.

Geography is not a field easily tied down to neat descriptions. Geographers seek explanations for the patterns they see throughout the world - earthquakes, poverty, crime. Learning to 'see geographically' means grasping an ever-changing world; getting to the heart of environmental and human problems; gaining a greater awareness of aspects of human life other than the physical and material, such as quality of life.

Acid Rain !



Course Outline

4 units - 2 for AS level and 2 for A2 level:

AS Level

Unit 1 - Core Concepts in Physical Geography:

- Rivers, floods and management - the study of river systems and regimes.
- Cold Environments - polar, alpine, glacial and periglacial; their distribution, processes, landscape, development and exploitation.

Unit 1 - Core Concepts in Human Geography:

- Global Population Change - Population Indicators, change, migration and structure. Social, economic and political implications of population change.
- Health Issues - global patterns of health; health in world affairs. Food and Health. Factors affecting regional variations in the UK.

Unit 2 – Applied Geography

Skill include – basic; investigative; ICT; graphical; cartographic; statistical.

AS Exams

- Unit 1 Physical and Human Geography - 2hrs; 70% of total AS marks
- Unit 2 Skills and Fieldwork - 1hr; 30% of total AS Marks

A2 Level

Unit 3 – Contemporary Geographical Issues

- Plate Tectonics and associated hazards - volcanic activity and earthquakes. The management of hazards and responses to the events.
- Weather, climate and associated hazards - major climate controls; climate of the UK and one tropical region; Hurricanes; Urban climates. Global climate change.

- World Cities - Contemporary urban processes, Urban Decline and regeneration, Retailing and services, Issues in Urban Areas.

Unit 4 - Geography Fieldwork Investigation.

A2 Exams

- Unit 3 - Contemporary Geological Issues - 2.5hrs, 60% of A2 marks
- Unit 4 - Fieldwork Investigation 1.5hrs, 40% of A2 marks

Preferred Entry Requirements

5 GCSEs at grade C or above including Mathematics and English. Geography is an advantage, but not essential.

