



Queen Elizabeth Grammar School
Wakefield

Technical Information

A-level

A-level Course Title	Unit Code	Awarding Body
Geography	9GEO	Edexcel

A-level Examinations:

Name	Method of Assessment	Marks
Physical Systems and Sustainability	Short open, open response, and resource-linked questions.	30%
Human Systems and Geopolitics	Short open, open response, and resource-linked questions.	30%
Synoptic Assessment	Short open, open response and resource-linked questions.	20%
Independent Coursework Investigation	3000–4000 word report.	20%

QEGS Senior School

(Boys 11-18 years)
154 Northgate
Wakefield WF1 3QX
Telephone: 01924 373 943
Email: office@qegsss.org.uk
Twitter: @QEGSYorkshire

www.wgsf.org.uk

Course Guide

A-level Geography

Geography

Background Knowledge and Qualifications

It is not a requirement that you should have studied Geography at GCSE in order to take an A-level course in the subject. Several topics covered in the course are developments of work covered at GCSE, but others are new. What is more important is that you should have a lively and inquiring mind, an interest in the environment and current affairs, a willingness to explore new ideas and an ability to communicate your ideas effectively.

Those students who have studied GCSE Geography will find that the material and the skills they have learned will prove a valuable foundation for further studies in this subject.

As the subject lends itself to visual representation, the course is delivered through a series of videos/clips, interactive presentations and independent research projects supported by work booklets linked to the specification.

Course Description

This A-level is a reformed A-level. For your A-level you will be studying the following areas:

The A-level course content is that detailed in the Edexcel Geography specification.

The course consists of a balance of physical and human geography topics which explore the complex interactions between humans and the environment through a range of interesting and contemporary geographical questions and issues. The compulsory physical topics are 'Tectonic Processes and Hazards', 'The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity', 'The Carbon Cycle and Energy Insecurity' and 'Climate Change Futures'. In the 'Landscape Systems, Processes and Change' topic candidates do one option from either 'Glaciated Landscapes and Change' or 'Coastal Landscapes and Change'. The compulsory human topics are 'Globalisation' and 'Superpowers' and two optional ones are chosen from 'Regenerating Places', 'Diverse Places', 'Health, Human Rights and Intervention' and 'Migration, Identity and Sovereignty'.

Four days of human and physical fieldwork are a required part of the course and fundamental to students producing a 3000–4000 word Independent Coursework Investigation report. The fieldwork is likely to take place at the Holderness Coast, Yorkshire, and Wakefield. There is also a geographical issue driven assessment based on a pre-release resource booklet to test synoptic knowledge and understanding from across the whole course.

Assessment of the course is linear with all examinations at the end of the course.

Use of Course and Qualification

Students with A-level Geography have access to a wide range of possible career and higher education opportunities. You learn and use a variety of transferable skills throughout the course. These include collecting, analysing and interpreting data, communicating your findings in different ways, and identifying and developing the links between different parts of the subject. These skills are in great demand and are recognised by employers and universities and colleges as being of great value. Geography still remains one of the few subjects that can be followed as an Arts or a Science degree at University.

Geography combines well with almost all other A-level subjects. Taken with sciences like Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology, Geography supports applications for almost any science-based University course such as Engineering, Medicine, Psychology, Environmental Sciences, Oceanography and Geology; taken with humanities such as English, French, History or Economics, Geography supports an equally wide range of University courses such as Business, Law, Media, Politics and Philosophy. Some may even want to study Geography at University or one of the many Geography related courses, such as Land Management, City Planning etc.

Some students choose to use their qualification to go straight into employment rather than go on to higher education. Because A-level Geography develops the transferable skills and the key skills that employers are looking for, it can lead to a very wide range of employment opportunities. This can include further training in such areas as Law, Accountancy and Journalism.

For further information about what to do with a qualification in Geography, talk to staff in the Department.

Student Testimonial

Year 13 student
Proposed University
Course: Medicine

Geography gave me a wider range of knowledge stretching beyond bog standard science, into Humanities and Social Science. It formed a major part of my medical interview and the field trips are awesome!

