

Geography A-Level at St Edmund's School

Teachers

Mrs Hill - Curriculum Leader of Humanities

Mrs Llewellyn - Assistant Curriculum Leader



Where can Geography take me at A-Level?



Why is Geography A Level a good choice?

The value of geography has been recognised in the following ways:

- The Department for Education has included geography within the family of approved **'academic'** English Baccalaureate GCSE subjects
- The **Russell Group of universities** has selected it as one of their preferred **'facilitating'** A Level subjects to support an application to their degree courses - which means if you don't know what degree courses or pathway you want to follow in the next two years or at degree level geography is recognised as a subject that can support an application into a wider range of undergraduate courses.
- Geography graduates report some of the highest levels of satisfaction with their undergraduate courses
- An international review ranked human geography in British universities as **'first in the world'**
- Graduate geographers experience relatively **low levels of graduate unemployment.**

Geography OCR A-Level Specification

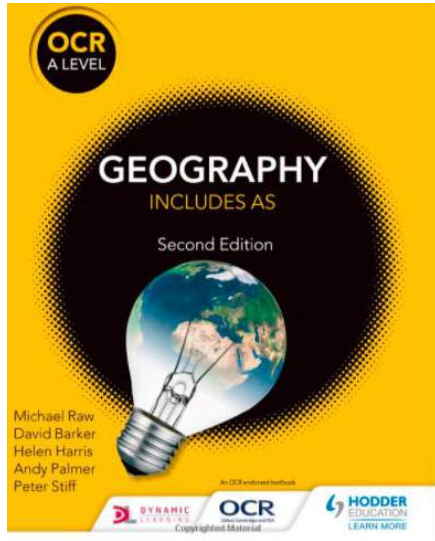


Learners take all components: 01, 02, 03 and 04 OR 01, 02, 03 and 05 to be awarded the OCR A Level in Geography.

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape Systems Earth's Life Support Systems Geographical Skills 	<p>Physical systems (01)</p> <p>66 marks</p> <p>1 hour 30 minute written paper</p>	<p>22% of total A Level</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changing Spaces; Making Places Global Connections Geographical Skills 	<p>Human interactions (02)</p> <p>66 marks</p> <p>1 hour 30 minute written paper</p>	<p>22% of total A Level</p>
<p>Optionality – study 2 of 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change Disease Dilemmas Exploring Oceans Future of Food Hazardous Earth Geographical Skills 	<p>Geographical debates (03)*</p> <p>108 marks</p> <p>2 hours 30 minute written paper</p>	<p>36% of total A Level</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent Investigation 	<p>Investigative geography (04/05)*</p> <p>60 marks</p> <p>Non-examination assessment (NEA)</p>	<p>20% of total A Level</p>

*Indicates inclusion of synoptic assessment.

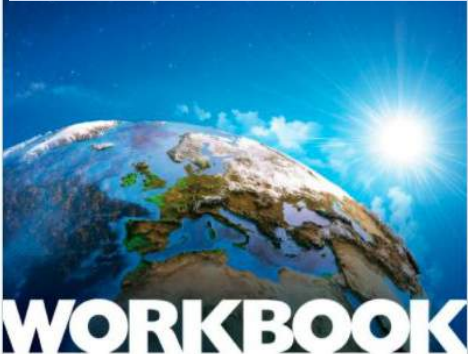
What resources does the Geography department provide?



A-level Textbooks

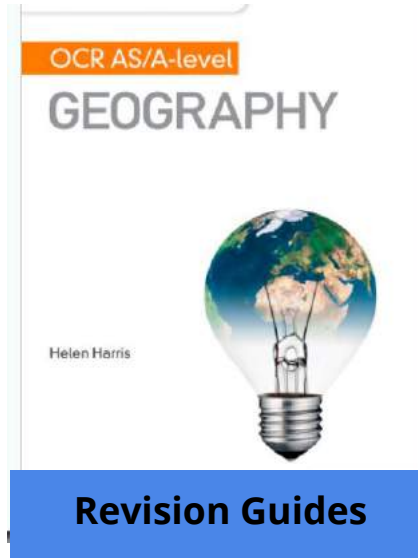
Weblinks offering further extension work

Practise questions



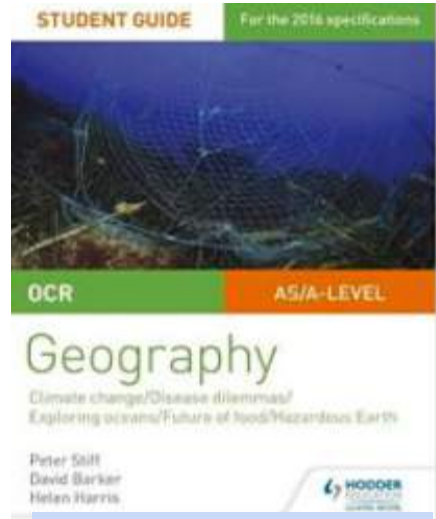
Geography 1

Landscape systems
Changing spaces; making places



Revision Guides

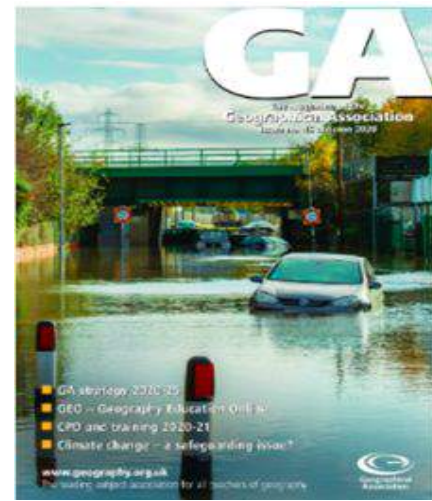
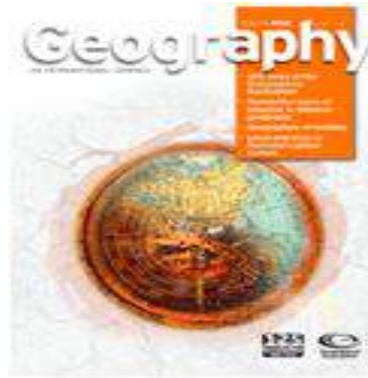
Geofact sheets giving up to date topical knowledge



Examination Advice/Guide for each topic

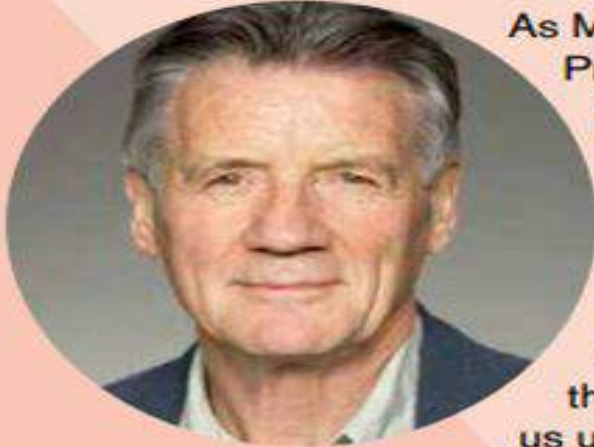
All geographers become members of the Geographical Association

- Have access to termly journals packed with:
 - recent research by leading geographers,
 - specific studies in human and physical geography
 - enquiries into environmental issues
 - discussion of standards in geographical education
 - investigations of specific places and regions
 - reviews of recent resources.



- GA magazines enables you to stay up to date with the latest news about geography events and topical issues
- Benefit from expert advice and guidance to raise levels of achievement in your work
- Attend geographical lectures each term by leading University Academics in Geography giving you a taster for university life and research, facts and figures on topics in your specification to give you the edge

Inspirational Geographers



As Michael Palin, the Immediate Past President of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), says, "Geography is not only up-to-date and relevant, it is one of the most exciting, adventurous and valuable subjects to study today. So many of the world's current problems boil down to geography, and need the geographers of the future to help us understand them."

You will find geographers working in a wide range of jobs, from the City to planning, working in the environment to travel and tourism, or in international charities and retail. Studying geography can help young people achieve careers that are professionally and financially rewarding and also enjoyable.

Geography illustrates the past, explains the present and prepares us for the future ... what could be more important than that?"

How will Geography help my chances of employability?

No matter what direction you choose within the subject, you will gain a wide range of very employable and transferable skills and attributes. These include:

- ❖ **Subject knowledge that is highly relevant to many of the challenges facing society and the environment today**
- ❖ **Specialist and transferable skills including statistical, spatial and environmental analysis alongside other quantitative and qualitative skills**
- ❖ **Strong analytical and research skills, critical analysis, ability to judge evidence and work across the social and natural sciences**
- ❖ **An ability to collect, understand and interpret complex data and communicate it to a variety of audiences**
- ❖ **Tackling problems and examining big issues at a variety of scales and from different perspectives**
- ❖ **The experience of working in a team, including through field research**
- ❖ **An interest in how the world works, contemporary issues and other cultures**

What career links are they with Geography?

The job market has become increasingly competitive and international. Around 75% of businesses think the UK is in danger of being left behind unless young people learn to think more globally

However, the transferable knowledge and skills developed by studying geography are actively sought out by employers allowing graduate geographers to consistently experience lower than average levels of unemployment. Geography graduates are currently less likely to be unemployed than graduates who have studied other degrees such as English, history, mathematics, finance and accountancy or computer science.

It is a myth that geographers can only do certain types of jobs. In fact there are a wealth of jobs geographers do spanning almost every sector.

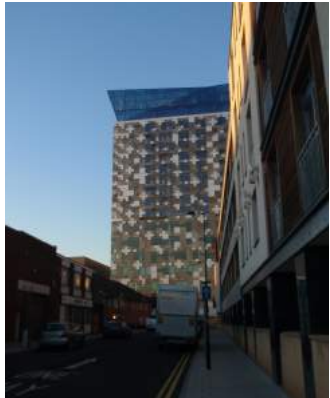


Geography A-Level Fieldwork

Previous trips with the Geography department have included:

- **Analysing social inequality in London**
- **Studying coastal landscapes and defences on the Isle of Cumbrae in Scotland**
- **Urban redevelopment Birmingham.**

These trips provides exciting opportunities to study processes, systems and interconnections in both human and physical geography. Whilst also making the subject relevant and helping it come alive!



Student Testimonials

Simranjit Rai - Year 13



Geography ...

Why did I choose it?

- A diverse academic subject that will be applicable to any course you want to study at university level
- 20% coursework which relieves stress and can enable you to increase your marks
- 20% coursework is also of your greatest strengths which enforces greater marks
- Excellent support and guidance given by teachers
- Covers every unit, e.g. Human Rights is excellent for anyone who wants to study law and Geography gives you a great understanding of it
- Geography at A-Level gave me further knowledge around what the world provides and helps you make sense of the world around you.

What are the best things about Geography?

- Residential trips are organised to give you a visual representation of physical geography. E.g.; Milport shows coastal defences
- Range of skills are developed, E.g.; teamwork
- Geography is one of the most relevant subjects to study as you learn how to deal with vital issues. E.g.; natural hazards and migration
- Shows you how places are developing when studying 'changing Spaces, Making Places'.

Student Testimonials

Dylan Khan- Year 13

I chose Geography because I enjoyed it at GCSE Level and wanted to pursue something at A-Level that I still liked and I got on with the teacher well. They always pushed me to do my best and I knew they wouldn't let me fall behind as often I need motivating!

The Geography course is interesting and eye opening in many ways. I have become to see the true inequalities of the world through learning about human rights, migration and places at a local, national and global scale. We also learn about physical aspects of the world such as earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis which were completely new topics to me. The last topic we studied was coasts which we got to apply in more detail when visiting Millport in Scotland for our Year 12 residential fieldwork. This was great for practising our communication and group skills whilst collecting data and enabled me to visit a country I had never been to before with my mates which was good fun!

The teaching in geography is very engaging with the teachers often giving us easy ways to learn processes and revise the content ready for application to examination questions. This has given me more confidence when it comes to sitting the real examination.

