

Geography at Key Stage 5

A level Geography pushes students' knowledge to the next level, engaging their ability to think critically and helping them to engage with academia; evaluating a plethora of case studies helps round out their geographical abilities in preparation for university. Students complete a full A level qualification over two years which culminates in three externally assessed exams (worth 80%) and one internally marked piece of coursework (worth 20%).

Year 12

Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards

Tectonic hazards – earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and secondary hazards such as tsunamis – represent a significant risk in some parts of the world. This is especially the case where active tectonic plate boundaries interact with areas of high population density and low levels of development. Resilience in these places can be low, and the interaction of physical systems with vulnerable populations can result in major disasters. An in-depth understanding of the causes of tectonic hazards is key to both increasing the degree to which they can be managed, and putting in place successful responses that can mitigate social and economic impacts and allow humans to adapt to hazard occurrence.

Topic 2: Landscape Systems, Processes and Change – 2B: Coastal Landscapes and Change

Coastal landscapes develop due to the interaction of winds, waves and currents, as well as through the contribution of both terrestrial and offshore sources of sediment. These flows of energy and variations in sediment budgets interact with the prevailing geological and lithological characteristics of the coast to operate as coastal systems and produce distinctive coastal landscapes, including those in rocky, sandy and estuarine coastlines. These landscapes are increasingly threatened from physical processes and human activities, and there is a need for holistic and sustainable management of these areas in all the world's coasts. Study must include examples of landscapes from inside and outside the UK.

Topic 3: Globalisation

Globalisation and global interdependence continue to accelerate, resulting in changing opportunities for businesses and people. Inequalities are caused within and between countries as shifts in patterns of wealth occur. Cultural impacts on the identity of communities increase as flows of ideas, people and goods take place. Recognising that both tensions in communities and pressures on environments are likely, will help players implement sustainable solutions.

Topic 4B: Diverse Places

Local places vary both demographically and culturally with change driven by local, national and global processes. These processes include movements of people, capital, information and resources, making some places more demographically and culturally heterogeneous while other places appear to be less dynamic. This creates and exacerbates considerable social inequalities both between and within local areas that students will engage with

Year 13

Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity

Water plays a key role in supporting life on earth. The water cycle operates at a variety of spatial scales and also at short- and long-term timescales, from global to local. Physical processes control the circulation of water between the stores on land, in the oceans, in the cryosphere and the atmosphere. Changes to the most important stores of water are a result of both physical and human processes. Water insecurity is becoming a global issue with serious consequences and there is a range of different approaches to managing water supply.

Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security

A balanced carbon cycle is important in maintaining planetary health. The carbon cycle operates at a range of spatial scales and timescales, from seconds to millions of years. Physical processes control the movement of carbon between stores on land, in the oceans and in the atmosphere. Changes to the most important store of carbon and carbon fluxes are a result of physical and human responses. Reliance on fossil fuels has caused significant changes to carbon stores and contributed to climate change resulting from anthropogenic carbon emissions.

NEA: Non-Examined Assessment (20% of Grade)

Students will attend four days of fieldwork throughout year 12/13 and create a piece of inquiry coursework that helps to answer a hypothesis and question they have posed for physical environments (Coast) or human environments (Diverse places/Urban or Rural). This will be worked on in the summer term of year 12 and finished throughout year 13.

Topic 7: Superpowers

Superpowers can be developed by a number of characteristics. The pattern of dominance has changed over time. Superpowers and emerging superpowers have a very significant impact on the global economy, global politics and the environment. The spheres of influence between these powers are frequently contested, resulting in geopolitical implications.

Topic 8B: Migration, Identity and Sovereignty

Globalisation involves movements of capital, goods and people. Tensions can result between the logic of globalisation, with its growing levels of environmental, social and economic interdependence among people, economies and nation states, and the traditional definitions of national sovereignty and territorial integrity. International migration not only changes the ethnic composition of populations but also changes attitudes to national identity. At the same time, nationalist movements have grown in some places, challenging dominant models of economic change and redefining ideas of national identity.