

# A Level Geography

Examination Board: AQA  
Specification Code: 7037 – A Level

## Why Geography?

Geography is a fascinating, dynamic and relevant subject. Many of the world's current issues have a strong geographical context and by studying geography at A Level you will gain a deeper insight into issues such as climate change, hazards (volcanic, seismic, and storm hazards), international trade, governance of the global commons and the importance of 'place'. Geography will also provide you with a wide range of social, academic and transferable skills highly valued by universities and employers.

The combination of the physical and human geography elements in the course coupled with the data handling and practical components of fieldwork mean that geography is very well placed to complement science or arts based A Level combinations. In addition Geography is highly valued by universities as an A Level choice.

## Entry Requirements

QEHS standard entry requirements apply and in addition students will be expected to achieve a grade 6 or above in GCSE Geography.

## Course Content

(these are the topics we currently plan to teach but this may be subject to change)

<b>Physical Geography (Component 1)</b>	<b>Human Geography (Component 2)</b>
The topics we will be teaching include: 1) Water and carbon cycles 2) Coastal systems and their landscapes 3) Hazards	The topics we will be teaching include: 1) Global systems and global governance 2) Changing places 3) Population and resources
Component 1 and 2 will be assessed in a 2 hours 30 minutes written exam comprising multiple choice, short answers, levels of response and extended prose. Each paper will account for 40% of the A Level and be out of 96 marks.	
<b>Geographical Investigation (Component 3)</b>	
Students complete an individual investigation that must include data collected in the field. The investigation must be based on a question or issue related to the specification content. The work will be between 3,000-4,000 words, will be marked by teachers and moderated by AQA. It will account for 20% of the A Level and 35 marks. <b>As part of the delivery of the investigation / skills component the AQA requirements are that all students attend a minimum of 4 days of fieldwork during the course.</b> We are currently intending to deliver the required fieldwork days during Year 12 and our delivery may include a residential trip (two days, one night).	

## How does learning differ from Pre-16 study?

A Level study demands higher order thinking skills. For example you will be required to synthesise, comment on, and evaluate concepts, issues and case studies. You will be expected to respond to more challenging question commands and you will be expected to work with greater independence with regard to note keeping, reading and problem solving. You will need to develop your writing style so that you can write well-structured pieces of extended writing and essays.

## Prospects

*"If you choose to take geography on to university there are literally hundreds of courses to choose from and the range of career areas accessed by graduates of geography will probably surprise you,"* (quote from Royal Geographical Society, accessed 19/10/15 <http://www.rgs.org/HomePage.htm>). Given that geographers develop such a wide range of transferrable core skills as well as subject specific and technical skills many fields of employment and opportunities in further education are available to them.

## Contacts

Please contact Mrs. R. Rider, Head of Faculty, if you wish to discuss this qualification further.