



AS/A2 GEOGRAPHY

Head of Department – Dr H. Fyfe

EXAMINATION BOARD AND SYLLABUS

AQA 1031 (AS), 2031 (A)

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Grade B at GCSE is normally required, as is your enthusiasm for the world around us.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The aim of Geography at A level is to provide you with: an appreciation of the complexities of decision making in the real world; a variety of skills and techniques to analyse data and draw conclusions, and a desire to tackle urgent environmental and social issues in the UK and around the world. We recognise the value of fieldwork, both as a stimulus for learning about the local environment and for individual investigations. So you will be offered a programme of local investigations, as well as a residential field study in an area of contrasting geographical patterns.

AS TOPICS (Physical and Human Geography Foundation)

Physical geography

- Rivers, floods and their management
- Glacial environments

Human geography

- Population change
- Health issues

A2 TOPICS (Contemporary Geographical Issues)

Physical geography

- Plate tectonics and hazards
- Weather and climatic hazards

Human geography

- World cities
- Contemporary conflicts

FIELDWORK

4 day residential fieldtrip to Snowdonia in March.
Additional 1 day fieldtrips to Boscastle and Plymouth.

ASSESSMENT

AS (Foundation)

Unit 1 – resource based, short questions on the AS Physical and Human topics (70% of AS)

Unit 2 – geographical skills paper relating to cartographic, graphical, statistical and investigative skills (30% of AS)

A2 (Contemporary Geographical Issues)

Unit 3 – resource based, short and long questions, plus an essay (30% of A level)

Unit 4 – geographical skills

Geographical issue evaluation, based on material released to students 8 weeks before the exam (20% of A level)

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GCSE & A LEVEL

You are expected to develop individual study skills and to engage with the issues, especially in the A2 part of the course. Opportunities abound to encourage you to think independently and with maturity, to write more effectively, to use statistical techniques with rigour, to appreciate the many points of view that influence the decisions made in our world, and to contribute to discussions. You will broaden your knowledge by reading beyond the basic textbooks, and keep up to date with world events. We also like you to keep a Geography blog so you can engage with geographical events as they occur.

ORGANISATION OF WORK

You will build up a portfolio from your lesson notes, private reading, projects and from field study. You will be expected to keep a blog on all these. There are regular assignments and projects for completion outside the classroom.

USEFUL SUPPORTING GCSE

AND 'A' LEVEL SUBJECTS

Geography brings together knowledge and skills from a wide area. Therefore it gives new perspectives on many other subjects. It combines well with languages (travel), business (industry and food supply), environmental and medical sciences, social sciences (History, Philosophy). You will discover how these affect the real world.