

Geography A Level

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements: GCSE Grade 6 in Geography

All entry requirements are excluding coursework components.

Subject Content

Year 1

Physical Geography

1. Water and carbon cycle
2. Coastal processes
3. Hazards

Year 2

Human Geography

4. Global systems and global governance
5. Changing places
6. Population and the Environment

7. Geography Fieldwork Investigation (coursework)

Progression/career opportunities:

- Climate change assessment & planning
- Climatology & meteorology
- Coastal, marine & hydrographic analysis
- Community development
- Conservation, heritage & land management
- Consulting & project management
- Education
- Environmental & social impact assessment
- Environmental monitoring & management
- Environmental science
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Geomorphology
- Hazard assessment, mitigation & disaster management
- International development & aid
- Local & regional development
- Mapping & cartography
- Market research
- Natural resource management & agriculture
- Planning (urban, regional, environmental, social & transport planning)
- Population analysis
- Public policy
- Public safety, defence & national security
- Real estate & land development
- Remote sensing
- Research
- Social services & welfare
- Surveying & geomatics
- Sustainability
- Tourism management

Assessments

Paper 1

Any content from topics 1 to 3

2 hours and 30 minutes written exam paper worth 120 marks for 40% of A-level.

Paper 2

Any content from topics 4 to 6

2 hours and 30 minutes written exam paper worth 120 marks for 40% of A-level.

Geography Fieldwork Investigation

Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.

3,000 - 4,000 word essay worth 60 marks for 20% of A-level, marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

Skills gained and enrichment opportunities:

According to the Royal Geographical Society, 13% more students took the subject at A-level this year than last, up to 37,100 – the biggest jump of any of the major subjects.

Geographers get to learn data analysis, and to read Robert Macfarlane. They learn geographic information systems. They can turn maps from a two-dimensional representation of a country's physical contours into a tool that illustrates social attributes or attitudes: not just where people live, but how, what they think and how they vote. They learn about the physics of climate change, or the interaction of weather events and flood risk, or the way people's behaviour is influenced by the space around them.

According to the latest information from the Higher Education Careers Services Unit, only 5.8% of geography graduates were still job-hunting six months after they graduated, against an average of 7.3% of graduates with other degrees.

Further information contact

Ms L Simmonds - Head of Geography
Liz.Simmonds@Walthamstow-Academy.Org