



Geography

What is the exam board and route?

Cambridge International AS and A Level Geography (9696).

AS exams – May of Year 12 A Level – May/June of Year 13

Subject Entry Requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE Geography is advised.

Subject outline

A Level focuses on developing a detailed knowledge and synoptic understanding of Physical and Human Geography.

Year 12 Core Physical topics: Hydrology & Fluvial Geomorphology (processes, landforms, flooding); Atmosphere & Weather (processes, weather and climate systems, global warming); Rocks & Weathering (tectonic processes, landforms, weathering processes, mass movement, slopes).

Year 12 Core Human topics: Population (global trends, resource relationships, ageing & youthful populations management); Migration (global trends, causes & impacts at different scales, case studies); Settlement dynamics (issues in rural and urban settlements, world cities, management in HICs & LICs).

Year 13 Advanced Physical Options: Coastal environments (processes, landforms, coastal management); Hazardous environments (earthquakes, volcanoes, hurricanes, tornadoes).

Year 13 Advanced Human Options: Environmental management (energy security & sustainability, environmental degradation & management strategies); Global interdependence (trade, aid, debt, tourism, sustainable management).

How is the course assessed?

Assessment comprises of structured questions and extended writing based around a variety of resources, complementary case studies and geographical skills.

AS marks (50% of A Level) are carried forward to Year 13. The remaining 50% of marks are gained from the two option units taken in Year 13.

Year 12:

Paper 1 – Core Physical (1hr 30): 3 x short 10-mark questions based on each topic and 1x 30-mark structured question from a choice of the 3 topics.

Paper 2 – Core Human (1hr 30): Same structure as physical.

Year 13:

Paper 3 – Physical Options (1hr 30): 1 x 30-mark structured question based on each of the 2 topics.

Paper 4 – Human Options (1hr 30): Same structure as physical.

Why study this subject?

Cambridge A Level Geography provides a rigorous, engaging, and interdisciplinary course. The topics explore highly relevant issues in detail, providing the opportunity to debate the key issues related to flooding, climate change, migration, energy supply issues and geopolitics.

Fieldwork opportunities both in the UK and overseas help to bring the subject alive and equip students with important enquiry-based and transferrable skills which are highly sought after by universities and employers.

Students take the **AS exam at the end of Year 12 and carry marks forward**, which is unique to this subject. The **AS resit is available** (Oct of Year 13) which enables pupils to improve their marks. Students consistently achieve excellent results in Geography (74% A*-A in 2022) with the AS exam option offering a significant advantage.



Complementary subjects

Geography compliments a wide range of other A Level subjects because it uniquely balances out a pure Science or Arts A Level route. Subjects include Biology, Chemistry, Economics, History, Politics & Physics.

Possible careers

Geography provides a firm foundation for a future career in many fields: Medicine, Law, Engineering, Finance, Commerce, Planning, Surveying, Geopolitics, Government, Education and Research.

Subject enrichment available

Fieldwork, both in the UK and international is complimented with a range of other clubs and activities.

- UK based fieldwork – river studies, coasts, energy supply
- International fieldwork – Iceland
- Geography Society
- Royal Geographic Society (RGS) national competitions
- Global Citizens' Award (GCA) – Bronze, Silver & Gold Awards
- Eco Club

