Pershore Sixth Form

A Level

Geography

Introducing A Level Geography

Why study A Level Geography?

Geography is a fascinating subject about the environment, how places differ, how physical systems work and about how people interact with the world. Geography is about real-world events, their impacts and their different interpretations.

Geography looks at the ‘big ideas’ in the world and how people strive to make our world a better place to live in. We potentially face dramatic changes to our world through climate change. Learning about physical process such as the carbon cycle helps understand the role of energy use in influencing climate change and importantly, helps us make judgements on the arguments presented in the media.

The course teaches about how trade and economies operate in a globalised world and how to evaluate the choices being made about our future. In this way, geography is a rigorous academic subject which helps us to examine complexity and to think critically.

In addition, geography examines the awe-inspiring natural processes of our beautiful planet, helping us to appreciate and value its landscapes, oceans and ecosystems. By studying different places, we inevitably delve into issues of culture and identity. Why do some places embrace multi-culturalism, why do others maintain strong social division? Geography is about places; people live in places and in turn are shaped by them.

Geographers are valued in the workplace for their multidisciplinary approach to solving problems and for the range of data analysis at which they are adept. In geography, students are taught to interpret maps using GIS, data presented in graphs and as numbers, all valuable skills in any walk of life. Anyone choosing to study geography at A level will be surprised by its wide appeal and amazed by its ability to both inspire and transform their life!

Specification Content

Paper 1 – Physical Geography

- **Water and Carbon Cycles**: Explore the interconnected natural systems of water and carbon across the earth, and how they influence climate, ecosystems, and human activity.
- **Coastal Systems and Landscapes**: Understand how wind, waves, and seA Level change shape dynamic coastal landforms and assess strategies for managing coastal risk and preservation.
- **Hazards**: Examine natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanoes, storms, and wildfires, including their causes, impacts, and how societies adapt and respond.

Paper 2 – Human Geography

- **Global Systems and Global Governance**: Analyse how globalisation has reshaped trade, politics, and the environment, and how the world attempts to govern shared resources and global challenges.
- **Changing Places**: Delve into how people experience, represent, and shape places through time, and how local and global forces influence identities and communities.
- **Contemporary Urban Environments**: Investigate the growth, structure, and sustainability challenges of modern cities, including inequality, regeneration, and environmental impact.

Non-examined Assessment (NEA)

Undertake your own fieldwork-based research project on a geographical issue of your choice, developing data collection methods, analytical skills, and university-ready academic writing

Teaching & Learning

We design our A Level Geography programme to develop both theoretical understanding and applied geographical skills. Lessons are designed to be thought provoking and engaging – we were recently awarded a Quality Mark from the Geographical Association for the quality of our curriculum. Teaching is delivered through a mix of lesson activities, decision making exercises, debates, seminars, independent enquiry and hands-on investigation. Students study both physical and human geography, ensuring strong foundations before specialising in the NEA (Non-Examined Assessment).

Teaching is split into the 3 course components: Physical Geography (4 hours per fortnight), Human Geography (4 hours per fortnight) and Geographical Skills/Fieldwork Preparation (1 hour per fortnight). For each component you will have a different subject specialist to guide you.

Fieldwork is a key part of A Level Geography, and we provide several opportunities for students to engage in learning outside of the classroom. Recent opportunities have included:

- A 4-night visit to Iceland to explore Natural Hazards and Coastal Landscapes.
- Residential visit to Dorset to explore Coastal Landscapes & Changing Places
- A visit to Birmingham exploring Changing Places & developing fieldwork enquiry experience.
- A visit to Bristol to explore Urban Change.
- Local Fieldwork within Pershore to explore Urban & Rural Change.
- Virtual Fieldwork at the University of Worcester.
- Exam Skills seminars delivered virtually and in Birmingham.
- A visit to Carding Mill Valley to deliver fieldwork skills to lower school students.

A Level Assessment

Students will be assessed through formal exams and written assessment.

Exam Papers - There are **two main exam papers**, each worth **40%** of the final A Level:

Component 1: Physical Geography
2½ hours, 120 marks.
Assesses the core physical topics (e.g. water/carbon cycles) plus optional physical topics.

Component 2: Human Geography
2½ hours, 120 marks.
Covers global systems, changing places, and optional human topics.

Question types include short answer, levels-of-response, and long essay-style questions, enabling students to demonstrate understanding, analysis, and evaluation.

Component 3: Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) — Geography Fieldwork Investigation is worth **20%** of the final A Level. It's based on a student-chosen question or issue, linked to any part of the course. Students must collect data in the field, justify their methodology, then analyse and interpret that data using geographical methods. Students complete a write-up, which includes analysis, conclusions and evaluation. It is marked by teachers (using AQA's criteria) and then moderated by AQA.

Subject combinations

A Level Geography can be studied with a wide range of other subjects.

Chemistry - Topics like atmospheric chemistry, carbon cycles, pollution, water quality, and soils link closely with geographical systems, supporting students interested in environmental science, sustainability, or earth sciences.

Physics - Physics underpins many physical geography processes including energy transfer, climate dynamics, glaciation, and natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanoes, and waves.

Mathematics - Statistics, data handling, and modelling are central to both subjects; maths strengthens analytical skills needed for GIS, sampling, graphing, and interpreting data.

Economics & Business Studies - Human geography aligns closely with economics through globalisation, trade, development, resource management, and demographic change, helping students understand how economies and places interact.

History - Both subjects examine change over time—geography focusing on spatial patterns and environments, history on events and societies—allowing students to explore how places and populations evolve.

Psychology - Geography and psychology share a strong methodological connection, especially through research methods, data collection, and human behaviour.

Progression Routes

A Level Geography opens the door to a wide range of university courses and careers by combining scientific understanding, analytical skills and real-world problem-solving.

Popular university pathways include:

- Geography, Environmental/Climate Science, Geology, Sustainability and Conservation
- Urban Planning, Architecture and Landscape Architecture
- International Development, Global Studies and Politics
- Economics, Business, Tourism and Transport Studies
- Disaster and Risk Management
- Physical courses such as Coastal Management/Ecology, Glaciation and Volcanology

Career opportunities include:

- Environmental consultancy, sustainability and net-zero planning
- Urban and regional planning, land management, regeneration and housing development
- Conservation, ecology, and habitat management
- Hydrology, meteorology and climate analysis
- International aid, humanitarian work and global policy
- GIS mapping, geospatial analysis and remote sensing
- Tourism, heritage management and destination planning

Because geography develops critical thinking, fieldwork experience, data analysis and strong communication skills, it is prized by universities and employers for its blend of science, social understanding and practical application.

Entry and skill requirements

What are the entry requirements for A Level Geography?

GCSE Geography – Grade 6 **GCSE English & Maths** – Grade 5

What do our students think?

"I chose A Level Geography because I genuinely enjoyed it at GCSE and found the topics really interesting. It was one of the subjects that actually made sense to me, so carrying it on felt like the right choice. I've enjoyed the range of topics and the insights they give into how the world works. I've also liked the trip we went on — it made the course feel more hands-on and helped me understand things in a real-life context. I've definitely improved the way I structure my answers and developed a better understanding of how to approach exam questions. I've also gained more confidence in using geographical data, thinking critically, and explaining my ideas clearly."

"I really enjoyed the content at GCSE and I wanted to learn more about it at a level. I wanted to learn about the aspects of GCSE I enjoyed in more detail. I really enjoyed the Dorset trip and having the chance to go to Iceland was also amazing. I have really developed my longer writing and essay skills. I have learned to not be intimidated by extended writing, breaking the structure down, and learning how to construct an NEA will help for lots of future assignments at university."

Contact us

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