

GEOGRAPHY

Level: AS and A2

Examination Board: AQA

What do I need to be accepted for this Geography course ?

The course has been designed for candidates who have successfully completed a GCSE Geography course, gaining a grade C or above. If this is not the case you need to talk to the Geography staff about your suitability. At a personal level, you should be interested in the world around you and in learning about people, places and environments. The course will encourage you to be interested in local and global issues and in practical work outside the classroom.

What will I study ? What examinations will I take ?

The specification has a two unit Advanced Subsidiary (AS), qualification. This is the 'first half' of the 'A' Level (A2) course. The other "half" comes from two A2 units studied usually in the second year of 'A' Level. You can just take the 'AS' on its own.

AS Examination (Certification Code - 1031)

Unit 1 . (GEOG1)

Structured short and extended questions

AS Unit 1: Physical and Human Geography

2 hours

70% of the total AS marks

35% of the total A-level marks

The physical units studied will include: Rivers, floods and management and a choice of one of the following – Cold environments, Hot desert environments and their margins, and Coastal environments.

The human units will include: Population change and a choice of one of the following – Food supply issues, Energy issues and Health issues.

Unit 2 . (GEOG2)

Structured skills and generic fieldwork questions

AS Unit 2: Geographical Skills

1 hour

30% of the total AS marks

15% of the total A-level marks

This will assess the ability of candidates to apply their knowledge and skills to unseen information/resources and with reference to fieldwork. A range of skills taken from at least three of the six categories. basic, investigative, ICT, graphical, cartographical and statistical will be examined in each exam series. Investigative skills, and consequently the assessment of fieldwork, will always be tested in this paper. Candidates will therefore need to take part in personal investigative work in the field to ensure familiarity with these.

A2 Examination (Certification Code - 2031)

Unit 3 . (GEOG3)

Structured short and extended questions and an essay

A2 Unit 3: Contemporary Geographical Issues

2½ hours

30% of the total A-level marks

In this unit, candidates must study at least three of the six sections, at least one from the

three Physical options and at least one from the three Human options.

The Physical units comprise of: Plate tectonics and associated hazards, Weather and climate and associated hazards and Ecosystem change and challenge. The Human units comprise of: World cities, Development and globalisation and Contemporary conflict and challenges.

Either

Unit 4A . (GEOG4A)

Structured short and extended questions based on candidates own fieldwork investigation

A2 Unit 4A: Geography Fieldwork Investigation

1½ hours

20% of the total A-level marks

Unit 4A will be assessed in a 1½ hour examination, with open ended questions being set which will differ from series to series. The examination may include questions on any stages of the fieldwork process.

Each candidate should bring his/her fieldwork folder into the examination and use this to analyse and evaluate their own data and results in response to the questions set.

Or

Unit 4B . (GEOG4B)

Structured short and extended questions based on an Advance Information Booklet, prereleased on 1 April and 1 November each series.

A2 Unit 4B: Geographical Issue Evaluation

1½ hours

20% of the total A-level marks

Details of Fieldwork: Residential field week at the end of October/start of November to Appledore, North Devon. This will give the candidates the opportunity to learn about aspects of the course first hand and to develop the skills and knowledge required for the Skills assessment section in the AS examination.