



# GEOGRAPHY

Examination Board: EDEXCEL  
Specification: Advanced GCE 9GE0  
<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/geography-2016.html>

## Why should I study Geography?

This course offers students the opportunity to study in detail the key issues and debates that are shaping the world we live in. Students develop a critical understanding of our planet going forward into the rest of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. You will study and develop informed opinions on issues as diverse as Brexit, Donald Trump, the rise of China, migration, climate change and managing natural disasters. You will develop an in depth understanding of social and cultural changes within Birmingham and the forces driving this. Having an informed understanding of contemporary issues and challenges is useful for whatever career or profession you wish to follow.

Studying Geography also allows students to develop many transferable skills such as high level ICT skills, good oral and written communication skills; critical thinking; numeracy; individual research skills; and teamwork skills through field work and the many opportunities for group work. The A Level includes an independent investigation where students identify a geographical issue and conduct fieldwork and research investigating this. The skills developed through geographical study are recognised and highly valued by universities and employers.

## What will I learn about?

- Area of study 1 Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards
- Area of study 1 Topic 2: Coastal Landscapes and Change
- Area of study 2 Topic 3: Shaping Places: Globalisation
- Area of study 2 Topic 4: Diverse Places
- Area of study 3 Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
- Area of study 3 Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security
- Area of study 4 Topic 7: Superpowers
- Area of study 4 Topic 8: Global Development and Connections



## How will I be taught?

A range of teaching and learning methods are used throughout the two years. These include individual research, seminars, group work and presentations, and work in the field. We run a four day field trip to support the classroom teaching but also to develop the skills required to undertake an independent investigation. The independent investigation is completed by A Level students based on an issue of their choice. The cost currently is approximately £350 – any students experiencing financial hardship can apply for support. Other field work opportunities exist (such as investigating the economic and cultural forces shaping Birmingham) and there is no cost involved on these additional trips.

## Application beyond school:

Students with an A Level in Geography have access to a wide range of possible career and higher education opportunities. They develop a variety of transferable skills that are highly sought after by employers and universities. Geography allows access to a wide variety of university courses and is identified as a 'facilitator subject' by Russell Group universities. This means that it is one of the



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subjects most preferred and most commonly required by universities to get on to a range of degree courses.

Beyond straight Geography degrees taking Geography at A level can support many other types of courses depending on how it is combined with other subjects. Geography is traditionally seen as a bridge between the sciences and humanities and therefore supports degree choices in either of these areas. Taken with sciences like Mathematics or Chemistry, Geography supports applications for almost any science-based university course. Taken with humanities like English, History, or Economics, Geography supports an equally wide range of university courses.

Studying Geography allows a wide variety of career choices with Geography graduates recognised as being the most employable graduates. Some specific careers that Geography can lead to include cartography, law, civil service, earth scientist, local government, environmental management, journalism, development charities and overseas charity work.

### Assessment Format:

Level	Component	Requirements	Duration	Marks
A Level	Paper 1	Topics 1, 2, 5, 6,	2 hours 15 mins Year 13	90 30% of A Level
A Level	Paper 2	Topics 3, 4, 7, 8	2 hours 15 mins Year 13	90 30% of A Level
A Level	Paper 3	Topics 1, 3, 5, 6, 7	2 hours 15 mins Year 13	60 20% of A Level
A Level	Independent Investigation			60 20% of A Level

### Are there any special requirements?

Students who take this course should have an interest in the world around them and world issues such as hazards, global warming, globalisation, and development. Having a Geography GCSE is advantageous but not essential. Geography combines well with science subjects like Chemistry, or Mathematics; as well as humanities and social sciences like History, Economics, or English Literature.

