

# A-Level Geography

“Geography explains the past, illuminates the present and prepares us for the future. What could be more important than that?”



We follow the AQA A-level specification which builds on the topics covered at KS3 and KS4 and includes a combination of human and physical geography.

## Sixth Form Teaching

The department aims to help students to develop their own geographical skills, knowledge and understanding and their exam technique.

Students will be provided with a specialist textbook for the A-level. This text is well used and supplemented by current resources and topical case study materials throughout the year.

## Lesson resources include:

- GIS
- Internet websites
- ICT including Word, Excel and PowerPoint
- Atlases
- Variety of texts
- Images and cartoons
- OS maps
- Satellite images
- Geofile articles via Moodle
- Geographical magazines and journals
- Library
- Literature
- Newspapers
- Census data
- Development data
- Film and documentary

Sources are continually being added to, due to the dynamic nature of the subject. Lessons are planned to offer students a wide range of learning activities including - discussion, presentations (group or individual), lecture, group work, IT, independent study and research. Private study is integral to geography lessons, it is often set to prepare students for new ideas, to consolidate learning and for differentiation and assessment, and it may involve reading, research, written tasks or problem solving.

## Key Reference Materials for A-level

As well as the key texts provided there are other essential reference materials.

All students should read good quality newspapers to keep up to date with current events in the human and physical environments. Daily papers are available in the school library. We have school membership of the Royal Geographical Society. Amongst other benefits is access to Geography in the News

[www.geographyinthenews.rgs.org/](http://www.geographyinthenews.rgs.org/). Students will find *Geography Review* and *Geographical Magazines* in the school library. *Geography Review* is produced specifically for A-level students and students can subscribe to this through school if they choose to have their own copies.

Other reference materials will be referred to as appropriate during the course.

## Field Work

Fieldwork, both human and physical, is an essential aspect of geographical study at A-level. It is an area of study required by AQA and will form the practical basis for Component 3 – the geographical investigation.

All students take part in a residential field course run by the Field Studies Council, an organization with an excellent reputation for environmental study and research who



run effective and safe fieldwork activities. While there we have an opportunity to learn and practice fieldwork techniques, to devise and test hypotheses and to come to conclusions on the basis of evidence collected. We also see environments which help in the understanding of many aspects of the A-level course.

### **Skills learnt during the field course are used directly in the assessment of Component 3.**

The five day fieldtrip is an excellent opportunity to strengthen and make new friendships, have fun and to further enhance geographical knowledge, skills and understanding.

Basic clothing for the fieldtrip – boots/waterproof jacket.

Cost of the fieldtrip – approximately £400.



### **Geography is a good career choice!**

This specification has been chosen as a good basis for geography or a related subject in higher education as well as being of value to you going directly into employment.

Geography is a broad-based subject with links to many other subjects. It can be studied as a single subject in higher education, whether in the field of arts or sciences, and can also be studied in a great variety of combinations with other subjects. It is a subject valued by employers due to the emphasis on problem solving skills and analysis and synthesis of a variety of types of data. The close link between the subject and the world around us makes for a long and varied list of related careers, for example working with development or aid agencies, environmental work, using Geographical Information Systems, working for the census office and in tourism and recreation. Statistics show that compared with other subjects, Geographers are among the most employable; Geographers possess the abilities and skills that employers look for.

Most students enjoy the scope of the material they cover in Geography, the insights it can provide into understanding the world around us and the sheer contemporary nature of the issues it tackles.

If you have any queries please contact Mrs Whan Head of Geography via email. [whan.n@sggs.org.uk](mailto:whan.n@sggs.org.uk)

