

# Geography

## Examination Board: OCR A Level in Geography H481

### What will I learn?

The first year is split between studying Physical and Human topics. In **Physical Systems** we will explore **Earth's Life Support Systems**, focusing on the Water and Carbon cycles, examining their significance to life on earth. We also study **Glaciated Landscapes**, understanding how these massive bodies of ice shape the land and how studying them helps us understand more about global climate.

In **Human Interactions** we study the role of **Global Migration** in shaping our world and the impact that it has on people and society. In addition we study the role of national sovereignty in a globalised world through the **Powers and Borders** unit.

Finally, the unit on **Changing Spaces; Making Places** explores the nature of places and the fluidity of their meanings and representations. A fascinating course that will encourage you to view the world through an entirely different lens.

In the second year you will explore global issues of the 21st century, focusing on **Hazardous Earth** (earthquakes, volcanoes and other natural disasters) and **Exploring Oceans** including plastic pollution.

### Assessment

**Unit 1:** 1.5 hour written paper 22% of A Level

**Unit 2:** 1.5 hour written paper 22% of A Level

**Unit 3:** 2.5 hour written paper 36% of A Level

**Unit 4:** Non-Examination assessment 20% of total A Level

### Who is the course suited to?

People with an interest in the world around them. In particular, those who want to explore physical systems in greater depth and to critically engage with issues facing humanity and its relationship with the environment. This will lead students to develop an independent, informed and engaged view of the world's changing people's, places and environments.

### What is the structure of the course

#### Unit 1: Physical Systems

Glaciated Landscapes  
Earth's Life Support  
Systems

#### Unit 3: Geographical Debates

Exploring Oceans  
Hazard Earth

#### Unit 2: Human Interactions

Changing Spaces,  
Making places  
Global Migration  
Power and Borders

#### Unit 4: Independent Investigation

3,000 – 4,000 word project This section allows students to undertake an independent investigation linked to any aspect of the specification to satisfy their intellectual curiosity through geographical enquiry.

### Reasons to consider doing Geography at A Level:

It bridges the 'Sciences' and the 'Arts' subjects and so can combine extremely well with Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Maths as well as with any other subject on offer at A Level. Studying Geography gives you a unique perspective of the world around you. It helps you to understand the earth's processes and how humans impact and change the world around us. You will learn to develop reasoned opinions on a variety of topics that are in the news and affect everyday life.

As part of this, you will develop a range of extremely valuable and transferable skills that Universities and employers value highly. Geographers are often rated as the most employable in a number of studies. Geography is widely recognised as an academically rigorous subject. It therefore has the enviable position of complementing a large number of undergraduate degrees, ranging from Law, Economics, Business Management, and Architecture to Biomedical Sciences, Psychology, Environmental and Oceanographic Studies and many more.