

# **A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY**

## **Exam Board: Edexcel**

### **Where do I start from?**

You will need to meet the School's minimum entry requirements. Please also refer to the Sixth Form Minimum Entry Requirements information sheet. For this subject you will need a minimum GCSE Grade 6 in Geography, Grade 6 in either English Language or English Literature and Grade 5 in Maths.

Should I do Geography A Level?

YES, if you:

- Are interested in the use and management of resources
- Are interested in and concerned about the natural and built environments
- Are interested in current affairs and world problems such as natural hazards
- Enjoy a subject relevant to your own life and experiences
- Want opportunities to do practical work outdoors
- Enjoy travel and finding out about new places
- Want to keep your options open

### **What will I study?**

The new A Level comprises the following units:

#### **UNIT 1: Dynamic Landscapes; Physical Systems and Sustainability**

- Tectonic processes and hazards
- Coastal landscapes
- The water cycle and water insecurity
- The carbon cycle and energy insecurity
- Climate change futures

#### **UNIT 2: Dynamic Places, Human System and Geopolitics**

- Globalisation
- Regenerating places
- Superpowers
- Migration, identity and sovereignty

### **How will I be assessed?**

Units 1 and 2 will be assessed in 2 hour 15 minutes papers with short, open response and resource linked questions along with extended writing tasks. Each unit represents 30% of the total marks for the qualification.

In addition there will be:

**Paper 3:** A synoptic paper based upon a resource booklet (that will be seen for the first time in the examination) containing information about a geographical issue. The questions will draw upon knowledge and understanding from a number of different parts of the course. They may be short open, open response and/or resource linked. There will be extended writing questions also. The paper will contribute 20% towards the final qualification.

**Paper 4:** An independent investigation. Student defines a question or issue, investigates it using primary and secondary research and writes it up as a 3000-4000 word report. This makes up 20% of the qualification and is marked in school.

**Fieldwork:** There is a compulsory requirement to complete at least 4 days of fieldwork away from school. As a result there will be a residential field course built in as an integral part of the course. One-day field activities may also take place. The residential course will incur a cost which will incorporate travel to, from and around the fieldwork site, meals, field study materials and tutoring from experts with local knowledge from an outstanding local field study centre.

### **How will I study?**

A wide range of teaching methods are utilised – discussions, presentations and independent study join more traditional approaches in the work presented to candidates.

### **What does the subject combine well with?**

Geography is a broad-based subject, which bridges the gap between the "physical sciences" and the "social sciences". It combines with just about any subject. The differing examination styles of each module are a good preparation for university.