A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY

Exam Board: Edexcel

Sixth Form

Where do I start from?

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 center.

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.