

GEOGRAPHY

A Level Subject Information



Geography

Introduction

Geography is a broad-based subject which links well with many other subjects and disciplines. It may be successfully combined with both Arts and Science subjects. Some of the main reasons for choosing Geography at A level might include:

- Because it is an 'awareness' subject, developing a wide range of skills, from problem solving and information handling to data analysis and interpretation
- Geography is a link subject, forming part of a broad learning base. The Russell Group of universities recognizes A level Geography as their preferred facilitating subject because it prepares students with a wide variety of transferrable skills
- As an academically robust subject a study of Geography will lead to a wide variety of careers and activities - please see the back cover for career ideas.
- Geography is a contemporary subject of interest, leading to a specialist career in the subject e.g. research, surveying, teaching or GIS.
- Geography is an English Baccalaureate subject that many universities, employers and apprenticeship providers are looking for bright candidates to achieve.

The Geography Department at the North Halifax Grammar School has a strong record of academic success. The department has specialist staff with higher degrees and a good deal of expertise of examination marking in their subject. In addition, we are well resourced with a wide range of textbooks, revision guides, ICT facilities and fieldwork equipment.

What does the course involve?

The course will emphasize the study of geographical changes in the physical and human world around you. Geographical skills are also taught to help candidates develop an appreciation of how we can observe change at a variety of scales.

The new A Level Geography Specification includes:

- **Study of the Physical Environment**
Natural hazards (to include tropical cyclones, wildfires, volcanoes and earthquakes) coastal environments and their management as well as the carbon and water cycles
- **Study of the Human Environment**
Students will study the globalization of the world economy and how decisions are made. They will also look at how dynamic urban areas are managed as well as studying how people evolve a sense of place where they live.
- **Geographical Skills**
Candidates will be taught a variety of valuable ICT, fieldwork, analytical and presentational skills that will be valuable in their studies and the workplace beyond school. They will apply these skills in the study of a topic of their choice.

How will the course be examined?

Lower Sixth Form

- Fieldwork is a compulsory element of the course.
- Students will sit a mock examinations of 2 hours in duration. This will be based on the skills work and the physical and human topics studied.
- All students will be expected to complete the course to proceed onto the linear exam upper sixth subject content.

Upper Sixth Form - Advanced GCE

- Candidates will sit two terminal examinations of 2½ hours duration. These will be based on the physical and human topics studied.
- Students will also submit an internally assessed independent investigation which will account for 20% of their total A level mark.
- The upper sixth form exams are terminal and are based on all of the topics covered over the two years previously. These marks will be combined with the results of the independent investigation to calculate the final A level grade.

How Can You Hit the Ground Running?

Download a copy of the A level specification from the exam board website over the summer and look at the support materials on offer online. Candidates can familiarize themselves with the lower sixth course content by booking out an A level revision guide or a course book from the school library. There are a number of GCSE revision sites like BBC Bitesize and GCSE pods which will help you to prepare for some of the unfamiliar units. The school website contains some transition tasks that we would like you complete over the summer to get you ready to embark on your A level course in September.

What qualities do you need to be successful in the subject?

Several topics covered in the course are developments of work covered at GCSE, but others are new. What is most important is that a candidate should have a lively and enquiring mind as well as an interest in the environment and current affairs. We are looking for candidates with a willingness to explore new ideas and an ability to communicate their own ideas effectively. Some more able candidates may start this course, never having undertaken a GCSE course before.

To what career opportunities can Geography lead?

- Geography can be studied at university where it bridges and links art and science subjects. Geography graduates have powers of statistical analysis and an ability to interpret complex data. They have skills of data presentation such as using graphs, charts and diagrams, but most of all, skills in the use of computers for graphics, data gathering, analysis as well as information retrieval. Other skills include those of communication and numeracy; geographers are literate and articulate and are skilled in graphic representation.
- Field experience of data gathering and problem solving, information retrieval, systems, map analysis and design, automated cartography, remote sensing and environmental monitoring can lead to careers in civil engineering and consultancy, surveying and cartography, landscape architecture and all kinds of environmental planning.
- Geographers are recruited to a range of business management posts in the financial sector - accountancy, public finance, banks, personnel and management services, chartered surveying, valuation and property management. Transport has always been closely associated with geography e.g. logistics organizers of rail, road, air and sea networks. Other areas employing geographers include market research, leisure and recreation, sales and marketing as well as civil service departments.
- Geographers have the flexibility to respond to constantly changing demands of the work environment. Employment rates for graduate geographers are extremely high. As the subject bridges arts and science, geographers have found employment in a wide range of careers. This continues to make it one of the most popular and relevant undergraduate courses in the UK.

How can you find out more?

Speak to any of the Geography staff who will assist you but specific information may be obtained from **Mr. Howarth or Mrs. Willis.**

Where do all the Geographers go?

Environmental Management

Architecture
Environmental Health
Environmental Research/Consultancy
Estate/Heritage Management
Farming
Forestry
Groundsperson
Industrial Development
Landscape Architecture
National Trust
Nature conservation
Urban and Rural Planning

Education, Professional and Social Services

Fire/Ambulance Services
Law
Lecturing
Police Service
Social Administration
Social Work
Teaching
Youth and Community Work

Information Services

Archivist
Census Officer
Central office of information
Film Making
Information Officer
Journalism
Museums
Libraries
Post Office Services
Publishing
Radio
Systems Analyst
Telecommunications
Television

Business and Finance

Accounting
Advertising
Banking
Buying
Exporting
Insurance Work
Market Research
Marketing



Leisure, Travel & Tourism

Air Crew
Air Traffic Control
Courier
Hotel Management
Recreational Management
Sports Management
Tour Operator
Tourist Board
Travel Agent

Scientific Services

Armed Forces
Cartography
Coastguard
Computing
Geology
Hydrology and Water Services
Information and Communications
Meteorology
Mining and Quarrying
Oil Companies
Photography
Research / Surveying

Management and Administration

Building Society
Civil Service
Freight Distribution
Housing Management
Local Government
Opportunities Abroad
Personnel Management
Public Relations
Retail Management
Transport Management