



IB Geography HL and SL

Geography is ideal for those keen to maintain a broad interest in, and understanding of, the world in which we live. It is a Social Science, at the interface between the Human and Physical and Sciences, and it examines the way people live, are distributed and interact with their environment. Study of the essential systematic and technical aspects of the subject creates a platform for considering the major environmental, political, cultural and socio-economic issues facing the developed and developing world. It is an interesting and enjoyable course and the geography department look forward to welcoming you.

Content

The syllabus is divided into three parts: geographical skills, core theme and optional themes. The Higher Level candidates will also study the extension topics of Globalisation, Development and Global Risks.

Geographical Skills

Students are required to develop a wide range of research methods, drawing on a variety of data sources. Students are also required to be able to use a range of mapping, graphing and statistical techniques within their written work. As such, geography students develop a broad portfolio of transferable skills.

Core Theme

- The core themes are population, resources and global climate change.

Optional Themes - Three themes are studied at HL and two themes at SL.

Both HL and SL students will study:

- Freshwater
- Extreme Environments

In addition, HL students will also study:

- Hazards
- An extension paper in Global Interactions.

Assessment

The external assessment consists of two written papers at SL and three at HL including essay style questions and structured questions based on stimulus material. The internal assessment consists of an investigation related to a theme of the course. This will be a group investigation of a maximum 2500 words, and will contribute 20% to the Higher Level course and 25% to the Standard Level course.

Standard level



Two written papers



The internal assessment an investigation related to a theme of the course

Higher level



Three written papers



The internal assessment an investigation related to a theme of the course



A Level Geography

Exam Board: OCR

The course explores the key principles, concepts and processes that explain geographical phenomena and landscapes. It maintains a balance between physical and human geography with relevance to the modern world. It is a challenging course that contributes to pupils knowledge and understanding of the world in which they live as well as providing a variety of transferable skills.

Content

Component 1 - Physical Systems (24% of the A Level)

Students will develop an understanding of the physical processes and factors that produce features, the impact of these processes on human activity and how human action has affected the physical processes. Topics are water and carbon (Earth's life support systems) and coastal landscapes.



Component 2 - Human Interactions (24% of the A Level)

Students will develop an understanding of the processes that produce a variety of human environments, the principle changes and how humans are trying to manage the changes. Topics are changing spaces; making places, migration and human rights.



Component 3 - Geographical Debates (32% of the A Level)

Students will have the opportunity to engage with, reflect upon and think critically about some of the most dynamic issues to face planet Earth. Topics to be studied are hazards and food.



Component 4 - Independent Investigation (20% of the A Level)

Students will conduct their own personal geographical investigation and write up a 300-4000 word report which is to be assessed by the centre and to be moderated by OCR. Students must complete 4 days of fieldwork (2 physical and 2 human) and therefore there it is planned to run a residential trip at the end of Year 12 or the beginning of Year 13.



General

- AS - AS level Geography can be taken in Year 12 and would involve the completion of two components; landscape and place and geographical debates. For landscape and place students would study coastal landscapes, glacial landscapes and place. For geographical debates students would study hazards and food or health. There is a requirement to complete two days field work at AS level but there is no write up as in A2.

Teaching is shared by two teachers.

The department is a member of the local Wellington GA, which provides a series of lectures throughout the year on topics that are relevant to the syllabus, as well as sessions on exam techniques and skills. High profile speakers lecture at Taunton School and the department run a Geography society.

