

GEOGRAPHY

AQA AS level specification 1031

"You can travel the seas, poles, and deserts and see nothing. To really understand the world you need to get under the skin of the people and places. In other words, learn about Geography. I can't imagine a subject more relevant. It is the subject that holds the key to our future." Michael Palin.

Unit	Unit Title	Duration	Mode of Assessment	Weighting at AS
1	Physical & Human Geography	2 hours	Written examination	70% (35%)
2	Geographical Skills	1 hour	Written examination	30% (15%)

Style of work:

Varies between group discussion, fieldwork, data presentation and analysis, research based tasks, writing data response and longer guided essay questions and using ICT, including geographical information systems (GIS).

AS studies centre on:

AQA's GCE Geography includes global issues that are relevant to students today. Physical Topics studied include Rivers, floods and management and Coastal Environments. Human topics focus on Population Change and Food Supply Issues.

Fieldwork includes a residential trip to the World Heritage Site of the Jurassic Coast, Dorset. This enables students to put theory into practise and develop their skills for unit 2.

Students will also become members of the Guildford Branch of the Geographical Association and therefore be eligible to attend relevant lectures from a wide variety of speakers.

Course Prerequisites:

A GCSE grade of B or above is an advantage. Students who have a keen interest in the world around them and who have not studied GCSE Geography may also consider this course.

Why Geography:

A-level geography is a highly regarded qualification by universities and employers and has applicability in many related fields such as economics, history, politics, biology and physics.

Geography forms the bridge between the natural and human world and the science and arts disciplines. Geography is recognised by all universities as an academic discipline and geographers are highly valued in the workplace for their all-round skills and organisation.

GEOGRAPHY

Edexcel A2 level specification 2031

"Geography is one of the most relevant courses you could choose to study. Whatever your passion for the world - fascination with landscapes or concerns about inequality - Geography will provide you with knowledge and transferable skills that will reward you personally and advance you professionally." Dr Rita Gardner, Director of the RGS

Unit	Unit Title	Duration	Mode of Assessment	Weighting at AS
3	Contemporary Geographical Issues	2 hours 30 minutes	written examination	30%
4	Geographical Issue Evaluation	1 hour 30 minutes	Written examination	20%

Style of work:

In addition to the wide variety of activities that are used at AS level students will develop their skills in answering essay questions and decision-making.

A2 Studies centre on:

Contemporary Geographical Issues studied in Unit 3 include Plate tectonics and Weather and Climate and their associated hazards. Globalisation and Development Issues within the world, such as trade versus aid, the conflict between economic development and environmental sustainability and considering whether the concept of sustainable tourism is reality or myth are all considered.

Unit 4 is an issues evaluation exercise and allows the student to demonstrate their wide ranging geographical skills. An information booklet for this exercise is pre-released up to two months in advance of the examination to allow the student to prepare for the exercise. Examples of issue analysis include the role of political factors in the selection of sites for out of town shopping areas or the role of environmental organisations in the development of energy schemes.

Why Geography:

To quote a major employer: "Geographers are stars in many respects, as they have a unique insight into the relationships between human and physical phenomena." The study of geography is also proven to improve literacy, numeracy and communication skills. Geography graduates end up in a diverse range of careers from Law, consultancy and investment banking to environmental management, insurance and town planning. Many other A level Geography students benefit from their unique blend of skills even when specialising in other areas such as medicine or architecture.