

Geography

Examination Board: AQA Geography 7037

Introduction and Structure

Your A-level geography course will cover both the physical and human environments and the complex interaction of processes that shape our world. It will also, importantly, show the applied side of the subject i.e. how human intervention affects the environment and how people adapt and mitigate the effects of processes on their environment. This is complex and dynamic and varies from place to place depending on people's resources, technology and culture. It combines well with both the arts and sciences subjects and is highly regarded by universities due to the variety of skills needed to progress and develop in the subject, including investigative, cartographic, graphical, ICT and statistical.

Component 1 – Physical Geography

The study of core geographical concepts along with contrasting themes of contemporary or environmental impact, management and sustainability of the physical environment. You must study Section A and then select one of the options from Section B and Section C.

Component 2 – Human Geography

The study of current issues and human interaction with their environments. It links contemporary issues and environmental impacts, management and sustainability. You must study Section A and Section B and choose 1 from Section C.

	Section A	Section B	Section C
Physical	Water and carbon cycles	Hot desert systems and landscapes <i>or</i> Coastal systems and landscapes <i>or</i> Glacial systems and landscapes	Hazards <i>or</i> Ecosystems under stress
Human	Global systems and global governance	Changing places	Contemporary urban environments <i>or</i> Population and the environment <i>or</i> Resource security

Component 3 - Geography Fieldwork Investigation

You complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by yourself, relating to any part of the specification content.

Assessment

Component 1 – Physical Geography

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes

120 marks

40% of A-level

Questions:

- Section A: answer all questions (36 marks)
- Section B: answer either question 2 or question 3 or question 4 (36 marks)
- Section C: answer either question 5 or question 6 (48 marks)
- Question types: multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response and extended prose

Component 2 – Human Geography

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes

120 marks

40% of A-level

Questions:

- Section A: answer all questions (36 marks)
- Section B: answer all questions (36 marks)
- Section C: answer either question 3 or question 4 or question 5 (48 marks)
- Question types: multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response, extended prose

Component 3 – Geography Fieldwork Investigation

3,000 – 4,000 words

60 marks

20% of A-level

Marked by teachers

Moderated by AQA

Careers

Geography is a broad based subject which combines a variety of skills from the analytical and observational, working as part of a group presenting information, and you will have a better understanding of world interactions as a whole, from local through to international. Careers achieved with geography range from green and urban issues to law and human rights (how do we measure development? what are the consequences of migration on societies?) and medicine (how does the environment affect the health and survival of people?). Most careers are open to you as the skills developed within the subject are very transferable and respected by employers.

Entrance requirements

Standard entrance requirements for entry onto A-level geography is 6 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above, including English and maths. Although it is not necessary for you to have a GCSE in geography it would be beneficial at a Grade 4 or above. If you do not have a GCSE in this subject you will have to show you have the dedication and capabilities to match your knowledge to others in the class.

Between GCSE and starting A-level geography

Keep a scrapbook of articles relating to geographical topics covered during the course (and others you think are relevant and interesting to geography). Please bring with you to your first lesson in September.

- use a variety of sources – internet, broadsheet, red-top papers, TV news reports, magazines such as National Geographic and Geographical, but also New Scientist, the Economist, New Internationalist.
- highlight key terms
- summarise the article into two or three sentences
- what geographical questions can be asked about the article/image – What? Where? When? Why? Whom?