

Geography - A-Level



Why Geography?

Geography develops a knowledge of both the physical and human environments. It creates an understanding of the differing nature of places on the Earth's surface at a range of scales, from local to global. The syllabus has a global perspective and looks at the changing nature of Geography in the 21st Century. It will develop the ability to make synoptic links between the different components within the syllabus, as well as developing the ability to analyse and synthesise geographical information in a variety of forms and from a range of sources.

Course Overview

The A Level course covers both Physical and Human Geography and includes topics on Coasts, Plate Tectonics, the Water cycle and water insecurity, the Carbon cycle and energy security, Superpowers, Globalisation, Regenerating Places and Health and Human Rights. There is also an Independent Investigation for which there is a compulsory fieldtrip in the Lower Sixth.

Assessment

A Level assessment is by written examinations and an Independent Investigation.

Beyond A Level

Geographers are renowned for their skills in data handling, for their knowledge of the world around them and for their ability to communicate with others. Geography combines with any A Levels to provide a broad base for many university courses. Many students who study Geography at The Abbey School choose to continue with the subject at University and it opens up many career opportunities.



Geography may be taken as either a Group 3 or Group 6 subject.

Course Overview

IB Geography gives an understanding of the differing nature of places on the Earth's surface. It examines the way people live and the way they are distributed and interact with their environment. It creates an understanding of the need to plan and manage our resources for both present and future generations. It will develop an appreciation of the rapidly changing nature of today's world, so gaining an insight into its workings on a number of scales, from the local to the global, using case studies material with an international flavour.

IB Geography also includes the numerical and analytical skills essential for the effective study of Geography. Fieldwork is, therefore, an essential part of this.

Both SL and HL students study The Core component of Global Change and two Themes - Geophysical Hazards, Oceans and Coastal Margins. HL students also study one additional theme (Food and Health) and an extension paper that develops the core themes. There is also an Independent Investigation for which there is a compulsory fieldtrip in the Lower Sixth.

Assessment

Assessment is by examination and an Independent Investigation based on fieldwork.

Skills gained on this course

- The ability to conduct an enquiry and analyse, interpret and present data to good effect
- Ability to evaluate a variety of viewpoints and discuss an issue from a particular viewpoint and communicate ideas effectively in discussions and in a written report
- How to use a number of statistical techniques and interpret the findings
- How to apply concepts and theories to real situations
- Use of ICT, including PowerPoint presentations and spreadsheets.

Beyond IB

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