

AS/A2 GEOGRAPHY

Entry requirements:

Geography GCSE Grade C or above if studied at GCSE. If not, students can still do A Level Geography if they have obtained Grade C or above in 5 subjects at GCSE, including English Language.

Examination board:

AQA

Teachers:

R Kerr, J Brennan, R Hollinger, S Kerr

Timetable organisation

You will have a total of 5 periods per week split between two teachers.

Main Syllabus areas

AS: At AS, all candidates will study core human and physical geography. In each area of study candidates will consider the values and attitudes of decision makers, consider their own values and attitudes to the issues being studied and support their learning of ideas through the study of specific case studies. Candidates will also develop a variety of geographical skills, which will broaden and deepen existing knowledge and be employed with a greater degree of independence.

Topic list: Rivers, floods and management/Cold environments, coastal environments and hot desert environments and their margins/Global population change/Food supply issues, energy issues and health issues.

A2: At A2, candidates will continue to study a combination of human and physical investigative work in the field in order to be able to produce a fieldwork investigation, or undertake an issue evaluation exercise to extend the content within the specialised context of issue evaluation.

Topic List: Plate tectonics and associated hazards/Weather and climate and associated hazards/Challenges facing ecosystems/World cities – evolution or revolution?/Development and globalisation/Contemporary conflicts and challenges.

Method of assessment

Assessment is 100% examinations with no coursework. Success at AS in Year 12 can lead to A2 in Y13. There will be opportunities to retake modules in certain circumstances.

Qualities required

You should be prepared to take an active interest in a wide variety of issues related to geography and the environment. It is important that you participate during lessons and field work and are willing to contribute ideas to discussions and group activities. In particular, you will be encouraged to think critically and to make judgements based on both facts and different view points.

Links with other subjects

Geography is uniquely placed as a subject that bridges the Arts and Sciences. It enables you to maintain a broad education if taken with either Arts or Science based subjects. It is complementary in terms of content e.g. Biology and Economics and/or in skills e.g. Mathematics and English. For further information about AS and A level Geography visit the Tapton school website under 'Geography Department' or come and chat with a member of the Department.

Career prospects

- Geography can be studied as a BA or BSc
- Geography forms the core of a wide range of specialised and often vocational degree courses such as Environmental Management and Town Planning
- Many of the qualities developed on the course e.g. carrying out individual research, evaluating conflicting arguments and working in teams are qualities that are highly regarded by employers
- As far as employers are concerned, you can quote Sam Toy, former managing director of Ford UK (and a Geography graduate) who once remarked that Geography "is the best subject in the world for getting on in industry".

Extension and enrichment opportunities

At the beginning of Y12 you have a half day fieldwork exercise on the River Porter. In the Spring term of Y12 there is a residential field course of one week that takes place in Keswick in the Lake District.