

GEOGRAPHY

Examination Board Specification: Edexcel Geography (9GEO).

Why Study Geography?: Geography is a unique discipline, bridging the Social Sciences and Humanities (Human Geography) with its understanding of people, cultures and the economy and the Earth Sciences (Physical Geography) in the understanding of landscapes and the dynamics of processes acting on the earth's surface. It is the understanding of issues and impacts involving people and the environment that lies at the heart of the discipline. In addition, Geography is a 'facilitating subject' – one of the subjects required or preferred by Russell Group universities to access a range of their degree courses. The A Level course includes a residential field study visit and students are asked to make a financial contribution towards this.

Content and Assessment of the Course:

Paper 1	9GEO/01	2 hours 15 mins examination	30%
<p>This paper is worth 105 marks and covers physical geography issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tectonic processes and hazards - Glaciated landscapes and change - The water cycle and water insecurity - The carbon cycle and energy security - Climate change <p>Format of exam includes short, extended and resource-linked questions, with the maximum any question is worth being 20 marks.</p>			
Paper 2	9GEO/02	2 hours 15 mins examination	30%
<p>This paper is worth 105 marks and covers human geography issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Globalisation - Shaping places - Superpowers - Global development and connections <p>Format of exam includes short, extended and resource-linked questions, with the maximum any question is worth being 20 marks.</p>			
Paper 3	9GEO/03	2 hours 15 mins examination	20%
<p>This paper is worth 70 marks. The specification contains three synoptic themes within the compulsory content areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players • Attitudes and actions • Futures and uncertainties <p>The synoptic investigation will be based on a geographical issue within a place-based context that links to the three synoptic themes and is rooted in two or more of the compulsory content areas. The focus is on students' ability to draw together ideas, opinions and information from a variety of sources. The format of exam includes short, extended and resource-linked questions, with any question being worth 8, 18 or 24 marks.</p>			
Component 4	9GEO/04	Independent Investigation	20%
<p>A 3000-4000 word fieldwork investigation which will be completed during the course, following a residential field course. In 2018, the fieldwork was undertaken in Barcelona. Pieces are assessed internally and moderated by the exam board. A human or physical theme may be chosen and must include primary data the students have collected themselves in addition to secondary data.</p>			

Entrance Requirements: A Grade 6 pass in Geography at GCSE level is expected as a minimum; as important is the desire to learn more about people, societies, economies, processes and landscapes. An enthusiasm for study in the field, both at home and abroad, and for developing statistical, analytical, team-working and ICT skills would be an asset. It is expected that pupils will take responsibility for their learning through independent reading and research. Self-discipline and good time-keeping are key factors in successful coursework completion.