



"Everywhere's been where it is ever since it was first put there. It's called geography."

Wyrd Sisters, Terry Pratchett

Entry Requirements

5 GCSEs at grade 5 or above. Grade 4 in English and Maths.

Subject Specific Requirements

Grade 6 in Geography and Grade 5 in Maths and English.

About the Course

Geography is relevant to many of the environmental, social and economic issues of today's world. A popular degree course, it provides many of the skills that employers want their employees to have – the ability to process and select varied sources of information, to be aware that issues can be complex and that there is rarely a simple answer, to be IT competent/literate/numerate and above all to have a hard working ethic. It is a highly sort after A-Level by universities and research has shown that Geography graduates are one of the first to secure employment once they leave university.

Geography remains a stimulating, interesting and topical subject which any student with an awareness of the world around them should study. At Springwood we have a positive team of Geography teachers, who emphasis achievement and try to correct any problems constructively, showing the same commitment to students' success as we hope they will show.

Teaching strategies will include a mixture of formal teaching methods such as note making and less formal methods e.g. wider use of case studies, discussion, mind mapping, presentations and helpful revision. Students will be expected to keep up-to-date with topical issues and to read widely. A magazine "Geography Review" is available to subscribe to and is especially written for A-Level students.

Assessment

The Edexcel A-Level offers contemporary geography, explicitly engaging with the relationship of human populations to each other over space and time and their relationship with the physical environment at a variety of scales from the local to the global.

The subject content at A level follows both a physical and human approach.

Paper 1 (30%) The physical core units include tectonic hazards, landscape systems and processes with a focus on coastal landscapes and change, the water cycle and water scarcity and the carbon cycle and energy scarcity. Many of these topics are familiar to most students and engages them in the study of the central role of water in landscape development and its management for welfare purposes.

Paper 2 (30%) The core human units addresses the fundamentals of globalisation, changing places, super powers and issues surrounding migration, identity and sovereignty. Students also develop the use and application of a wide variety of geographical and employable skills e.g. working in a team, analysing data, spatial awareness and statistics used to aid analysis of results.

Paper 3 (20%) This will draw synoptically on knowledge and understanding from compulsory content drawn from different parts of the course.

A geographical investigation is now a formal requirement of the course (20% of the overall A-Level) and so fieldwork will remain a vital part of the curriculum. Students must complete four days of compulsory fieldwork, which includes a residential in Yorkshire. **Therefore, a financial committed is required from parents/guardians of approximately £300.**

Future Applications

Universities highly value Geography, and many Geography graduates will go to work directly in geographical fields – coastal management, hydrology, environmental management and geology. Some career paths are more indirect and include town planning, local government and civil engineering.

Alumni

Sam - Law at University of Cambridge
Harry - Management Sciences at University of Loughborough
Alice - BSc Geography at Sheffield Hallam University