

Geography GCSE Options Information



Geography is for everyone, not an academic subject for a few

Students who opt for Geography follow the Cambridge IGCSE syllabus which is specially designed for international students. The course builds upon knowledge and skills acquired at Key Stage 3. GCSE geography is a good option as it equips students with a variety of skills. Not only do students develop geographical knowledge but their abilities with maths by way of data calculation, analysis, interpretation and presentation are enhanced. Moreover, map reading and group work are a regular feature of the course and they learn to interpret a variety of sources of data. Geography will also create greater environmental awareness which is becoming all the more important in the current climate. All that is required of students to study GCSE Geography is a genuine interest in the subject and willingness to work hard through a variety of different techniques.

'I thought of geography and history as the twinset of the world knowledge wardrobe. Add to these a simple string of pearls of wisdom and you'd be intellectually dressed for any occasion.'

Sandi Toksvig, Broadcaster

Successful Cambridge IGCSE Geography candidates develop lifelong skills, including:

- an understanding of the characteristics, distribution and processes which affect physical and human environments
- an understanding of location on a local, regional and global scale
- the ability to use and understand geographical data and information
- an understanding of how communities around the world are affected and constrained by different environments.
- an understanding of the ways in which people interact with each other and with their environment
- an awareness of the contrasting opportunities and constraints presented by different environments
- an appreciation of and concern for the environment
- an appreciation of the earth, including its people, places, landscapes, natural processes and phenomena.

Content overview

The syllabus is divided into three themes:

Theme 1: Population and Settlement

Theme 2: The Natural Environment (Plate Tectonics, Rivers, Coasts, Weather, Climate and Vegetation)

Theme 3: Economic Development (Development and it's Environmental Risks, Food Production, Industry, Tourism, Energy, Water)

One of the many advantages of Geography is its diversity. It links well with numerous other subjects and can lead into many many different careers. Therefore, Geography is a good option for students who are uncertain what they want to do in the future as the subject gives them a wide range of knowledge on a huge range of topics along with a broad skills base that is attractive to employers and universities.

Geography with...	Potential careers
...History	Archaeology, law, libraries, museums, publishing
...Modern Languages	Business, bilingual secretary, overseas marketing, leisure and tourism
...Maths	Civil engineering, meteorology, mining, navigation, photography
...Science	Agriculture, environmental health, estate management, nature conservation
...Art + Design Technology	Advertising, architecture, cartography, landscape design
...various subjects	Leisure services, sport and recreation management, social and youth work, surveying, transport services, banks, building societies, business, civil service, secretary/PA, police, army, health service

Assessment overview

All candidates take three papers: Paper 1 and Paper 2 and Paper 4.

Paper 1 1 hour 45 minutes

Geographical Themes 45%

75 marks, weighted to 100 marks

Candidates answer three questions, each worth 25 marks. Candidates must answer one question from each section

Externally assessed

Paper 4 1 hour 30 minutes

Alternative to Coursework 27.5%

60 marks

Candidates answer two compulsory questions, completing a series of written tasks

Externally assessed

Paper 2 1 hour 30 minutes

Geographical Skills 27.5%

60 marks

Candidates answer all the questions

Externally assessed

Employers and universities see geography as a robust academic subject rich in skills, knowledge and understanding. As a subject linking the arts and the sciences it is highly flexible in terms of what you can combine it with, both at GCSE and A Level. If you choose to take geography on to university there are literally hundreds of courses to choose from and the range of career areas accessed by graduates of geography will probably surprise you.