GEOGRAPHY

Examination Board Specification: Edexcel Geography (9GEO).

Why study Geography? Geography is a unique discipline, bridging the Social Sciences and Humanities with its understanding of people, cultures and the economy (Human Geography) and the Earth Sciences (Physical Geography) in the understanding of landscapes and the dynamics of processes acting on the Earth's surface. The understanding of issues involving people and the environment lies at the heart of the discipline. In addition, Geography is highly valued by Russell Group universities and helps to access a range of their degree courses. The A Level course includes field study visits and students are asked to make a financial contribution towards this.

Content and Assessment of the course:

<table>
<tr><td>Paper 1</td><td>9GEO/01</td><td>2 hours 15 mins examination</td><td>30%</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">This paper is worth 105 marks and covers physical geography issues:
- Tectonic processes and hazards
- Coastal landscapes and change
- The water cycle and water insecurity
- The carbon cycle and energy security
- Climate change
The format of the exam includes short, extended and resource-linked questions, with the maximum any question is worth being 20 marks.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Paper 2</td><td>9GEO/02</td><td>2 hours 15 mins examination</td><td>30%</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">This paper is worth 105 marks and covers human geography issues:
- Globalisation
- Shaping places: diverse places
- Superpowers
- Global development and connections: health, human rights and intervention
The format of the exam includes short, extended and resource-linked questions, with the maximum any question is worth being 20 marks.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Paper 3</td><td>9GEO/03</td><td>2 hours 15 mins examination</td><td>20%</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">This paper is worth 70 marks. The specification contains three synoptic themes within the compulsory content areas:
• Players
• Attitudes and actions
• Futures and uncertainties
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 4, 8, 18 or 24 marks.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Component 4</td><td>9GEO/04</td><td>Independent Investigation</td><td>20%</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">A 4000-word fieldwork investigation which will be completed during the course, following fieldwork visits. Reports are assessed internally and moderated by the examination board. A human or physical theme may be chosen and must include primary data the students have collected themselves in addition to secondary data.</td></tr>
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Entrance Requirements: A Grade 7 pass in Geography at GCSE level is expected as a minimum; equally important is the desire to learn more about people, societies, economies, processes and landscapes. An enthusiasm for study in the field and for developing statistical, analytical, team-working and ICT skills would be an asset. It is expected that students will take responsibility for their learning through independent reading and research. Self-discipline and good time-keeping are key factors in successful coursework completion.