

GEOGRAPHY

SPECIFICATION

A Level AQA Geography

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

The primary objective of the course is to develop students' awareness of contemporary geographical issues and to equip them with a variety of skills which will benefit them beyond the confines of the A Level Geography curriculum. The AQA syllabus ensures that students will develop statistical, graphical and cartographical skills as well as independent research and problem solving skills which will provide them with the understanding and aptitudes for further study in higher education or future employment. A range of Physical and Human topics are studied which can always be linked to modern case studies making the course both relevant and interesting.

CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

The A Level specification has three units:

Component 1: Physical Geography

Topic list

- Water and Carbon Cycles
- Coastal Systems and Landscapes
- Hazards

Worth 40% of the A Level and will be assessed by a 2 hours and 30 minutes written paper

Component 2: Human Geography

Topic list

- Global Systems and Global Governance
- Changing Places
- Contemporary Urban Environments

Worth 40% of the A Level and will be assessed by a 2 hours and 30 minutes written paper.

Component 3: Geographical Investigation

Non-examined assessment
Worth 20% of the A Level

Students complete an individual investigation of 3000-4000 words, which must include data collected in the field, based on a question or issue defined and developed by the students relating to any part of the specification content.

METHODS OF STUDY

A variety of learning styles are involved including group work assignments and independent research projects.

SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE COURSE

Students will take part in four days of fieldwork for the A Level course. This will involve a coastal trip to Formby as well as more local studies to take place in Manchester. There is also the opportunity for a visit to Iceland to explore an environment rich in tectonic activity. Students will be able to take advantage of regular enrichment opportunities aimed at boosting their geographical knowledge in preparation for the final exams. This includes guest speakers, visits to external lectures and courses runs by examiners to prepare students for their terminal exams. The department is a member of the Geographical Association which means we have access to contemporary resources and a range of enrichment opportunities.

