



Teignmouth Community School

A Level Geography

Student Guide



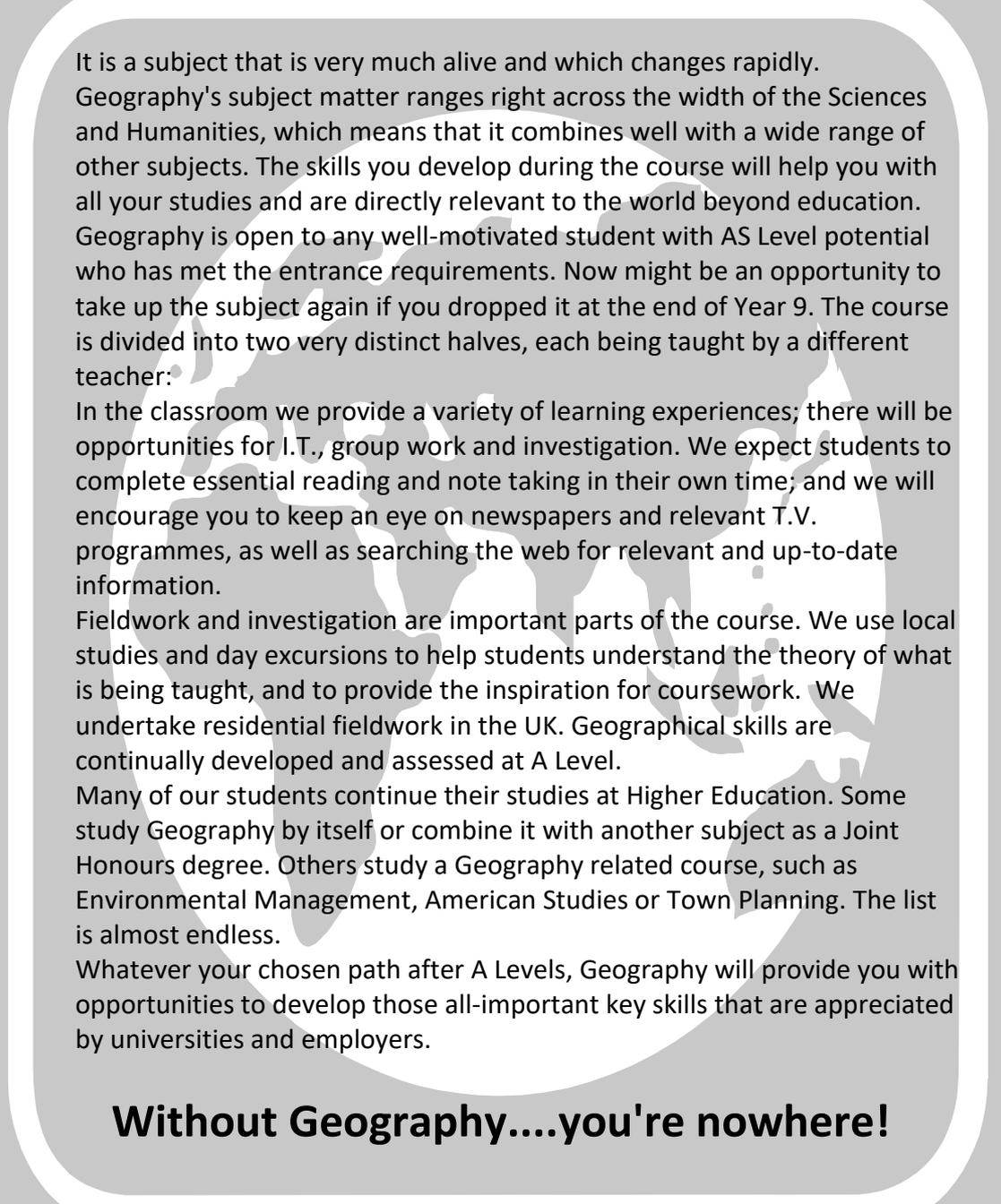
"Geography is the subject that holds the key to our future"

Michael Palin.

10 reasons for studying geography!

- 1 Geographers are employable.
- 2 Geography combines well with other subjects.
- 3 Geographers develop key skills.
- 4 Geography relates to real life problems.
- 5 Geography helps develop an understanding of current events.
- 6 Geography tackles the big issues:
- 7 Environmental change
- 8 Global Interdependence
- 9 Sustainability
- 10 Cultural Understanding
- 11 Geography is a good general subject and keeps your options open.
- 12 Geography stimulates an interest in and wonder of, the world around us.
- 13 Geography is a fun and interesting subject.
- 14 You get days out on fieldwork.

Can't decide which way to go? Already got a clear career path? Whether you've studied it at GCSE or not, Geography is the right direction for you! Statistics show that compared with other subjects Geography graduates are amongst the most employable. This is because they possess the skills that employers are looking for. Geography develops the ability to combine scientific principles with economic awareness, environmental concern and an appreciation and tolerance of people's attitudes and values. When you take Geography you will study a wide range of interesting topics. It offers the opportunity to look in more detail at issues such as global warming, the impacts of volcanoes and earthquakes, the population explosion, the consequences of urban growth or the fate of the rain forests. We study coasts, tourism, the weather and settlement, all of these with a lot of local studies, building on your knowledge and interest of your local area.



It is a subject that is very much alive and which changes rapidly. Geography's subject matter ranges right across the width of the Sciences and Humanities, which means that it combines well with a wide range of other subjects. The skills you develop during the course will help you with all your studies and are directly relevant to the world beyond education. Geography is open to any well-motivated student with AS Level potential who has met the entrance requirements. Now might be an opportunity to take up the subject again if you dropped it at the end of Year 9. The course is divided into two very distinct halves, each being taught by a different teacher:

In the classroom we provide a variety of learning experiences; there will be opportunities for I.T., group work and investigation. We expect students to complete essential reading and note taking in their own time; and we will encourage you to keep an eye on newspapers and relevant T.V. programmes, as well as searching the web for relevant and up-to-date information.

Fieldwork and investigation are important parts of the course. We use local studies and day excursions to help students understand the theory of what is being taught, and to provide the inspiration for coursework. We undertake residential fieldwork in the UK. Geographical skills are continually developed and assessed at A Level.

Many of our students continue their studies at Higher Education. Some study Geography by itself or combine it with another subject as a Joint Honours degree. Others study a Geography related course, such as Environmental Management, American Studies or Town Planning. The list is almost endless.

Whatever your chosen path after A Levels, Geography will provide you with opportunities to develop those all-important key skills that are appreciated by universities and employers.

Without Geography....you're nowhere!

Geography A-Level Expectations

1. Lessons

There are 5 lessons of geography per week. You are expected to attend all lessons, as noted in your learning contract. If you know of an absence in advance you must give your teacher enough notice, so that work can be caught up with by an agreed date.

2. Homework

You will be set homework at least once a week by your teachers. Homework will consist of a range of task such as: research, exam questions, structured exercises, preparation for presentations, revision and note taking. When your homework is set, you will be given a deadline for completion. If you cannot meet the deadline you must see your teacher at least 24 hours before the work is due, so you can renegotiate completion. Due the various demands of A Level Geography; no upper limit is set on the amount of time to be spent on homework. At a minimum, it is expected that you should do two and a half hours per week, per teacher.

3. Personal Research

In addition, it is expected that you should read around the topic that you are studying. This may include: articles in newspapers or magazines, reference books, use of the internet and watching relevant TV programmes.

4. Fieldwork

You are expected to participate fully in fieldwork, whether on day trips or on the residential week. You will be notified of trips well in advance. All trips will incur costs and you are required to attend as part of the course.

5. Equipment

You are expected to provide a ring binder and dividers to keep your work in. You will need to bring all the relevant equipment to every lesson.

6. Organisation of notes

It is essential that your notes and other work is organised, clear and thorough. For each unit covered you need to: keep a list of contents, have a list of key terms and keep your work in order.

7. To conclude

You are all capable of achieving at A Level Geography. If you: work hard, participate fully and meet the expectation noted above; you will pass with a good grade. You may even enjoy yourself!

A Level Geography

The course contains 4 units over 2 years:

Paper 1 - Written examination

2 hours 15 minutes - 30% of the qualification

- Tectonic Processes and Hazards
- Landscape Systems, Processes and Change (Coastal landscapes and change)
- The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
- The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security

Assessment overview:

An externally-assessed written examination.

Paper 2 - Written examination

2 hours 15 minutes - 30% of the qualification

- Globalisation
- Regenerating Places
- Superpowers
- Health, Human Rights and Intervention

Assessment overview:

An externally-assessed written examination comprising four sections.

Paper 3 - Written examination

2 hours and 15 minutes - 20% of the qualification

Content overview – There are three synoptic themes:

- 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.

Assessment overview: An externally-assessed written examination comprising three sections, using a resource booklet.

Paper 4 - Coursework: Independent Investigation

Non-examined assessment - 20% of the qualification

Content overview:

The student defines a question or issue for investigation, relating to the course content.

The investigation will incorporate fieldwork data (collected individually or as part of a group) and own research and/or secondary data.

The fieldwork which forms the focus and context of the individual investigation may be either human, physical or integrated physical-human.

The investigation report will evidence independent analysis and evaluation of data, presentation of data findings and extended writing. Students will be expected to show evidence that they have used both quantitative and qualitative data to support their independent investigation.

Wider reading and summer tasks

To be successful at A Level geography you must be aware of what is going on in the world. It may sound obvious, but if you don't watch the news or read a quality newspaper, your world view will be narrowed. As part of your preparation for A levels, you must:

- Read a quality newspaper at least 3 times a week – this could be the Guardian, Independent, The Times, The Telegraph or i (only 20p!). I'm afraid that reading The Sun and the Teignmouth Post will not do!
- Watch the news – BBC or Channel 4 are recognized as the best for this.
- Keep an eye on any key events –earthquakes, volcanoes, reports on climate change, etc.
- Watch relevant documentaries as they appear. BBC2, Channel 4 and the channel Eden are excellent for these. I recommend: Panorama, Unreported world, anything with Ian Stewart, Attenborough or Brian Cox.
- Buy an atlas – and look at it. Get a world map and put it on your wall.
- Use the library in school and make use of Geography Review.
- Read 'Prisoners of Geography' by Tim Marshall.

Introductory task

You must arrive in September with this piece of work complete:

Use the questions below and the hyperlinks to find out:

What has happened to Tebua?

- Using the World Bank website (www.worldbank.org), compile a data file showing Kiribati's economy (e.g. GNP, exports) and population data (e.g. birth and death rates, infant mortality).
- Summarize what happened to Tebua
- Decide whether or not it matters if Kiribati survives as a nation.
- How willing do you think Australia and New Zealand might be to accept environmental refugees from Kiribati, and why?
- Using Google, or similar, research recent hazard threats in Kiribati.
- How far is Kiribati a nation facing 'multiple hazards'?

Kiribati Articles

BBC News

Islands disappear under rising seas <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/368892.stm>

Country profile: Kiribati http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/country_profiles/1168527.stm

Global carbon emissions, by country http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/629/629/7133036.stm

Global carbon emissions, per person http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/629/629/7133136.stm

Reuters

Island nations plan for rising seas, mass migration

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUKSP27770920071114>

Tiny island states seek help from rising Pacific

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUKSYD11111220061025>

The Guardian

The first climate change refugees

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/theguardian/2005/dec/02/guardianweekly.guardianweekly11>

The Independent

That sinking feeling <http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/that-sinking-feeling-577322.html>

Death by drowning <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/australasia/death-by-drowning-705563.html>

Rising tide of global warming threatens Pacific island states

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/climate-change/rising-tide-of-global-warming-threatens-pacific-island-states-421493.html>

Other sources

AWASH IN A RISING SEA - How global warming is overwhelming the islands of the tropical Pacific - Cover Story http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1170/is_2002_Jan-Feb/ai_80903889/pg_1

King tide pummels Kiribati <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/news/king-tide-pummels-kiribati>

Images Slideshow <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/photosvideos/slideshows/king-tide-impacts-on-kiribati?page=1>

Current and historical sea level rise <http://www.drgeorgepc.com/ClimateChangeSeaLevelRise.jpg>

CIA World Factbook: Kiribati <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/kr.html>

Statistics <http://ww2.unhabitat.org/habrdd/conditions/micronesia/kiribati.html>