

Geography

OCR A-level Geography (H481)

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Introduction

If you enjoy learning about people and their societies, economies, cultures, and the environment, are looking to learn and develop a wide range of skills, or want to study a broad-based academic subject that offers above average graduate employability, then studying A-level geography might be right for you.

Subject Requirements

Students will need at least a Grade 7 in GCSE geography. Mathematical skills and a high degree of literacy are also important to success at A-level so it is recommended that students have also gained Grade 7s in maths and either English language or literature.

Course Outline

The OCR syllabus comprises four separate units, three of which are assessed in exams at the end of the course, and one which is assessed as coursework.

Exam Paper 1: Physical Systems (22%)

Landscape Systems (Coasts)

Earth's Life Support Systems (Carbon and water cycle)

Geographical Skills

Exam Paper 2: Human Interactions (22%)

Changing Spaces; Making Places

Global Connections (Migration and Human Rights)

Geographical Skills

Exam Paper 3: Geographical Debates (36%)

Climate Change

Disease Dilemmas

Geographical Skills

Independent Investigation (20%)

NEA (coursework)

Higher Education and Careers

A-level geography is an excellent choice, providing insight into current global challenges such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation, spatial epidemiology, and inequalities.

Geography degrees are very popular, with high satisfaction rates, and geography graduates are sought after as potential catalysts for positive change on a global scale. Geography instils graduates with an understanding of the contemporary drivers of economic change, including climate change and achieving net zero, navigating the intricacies of the green economy, and environmental management. As economic, technological, and cultural landscapes evolve towards a greener future, geography equips graduates with the foresight to thrive in these changing conditions.

The 'green economy' unveils new sectors and roles that need skills developed in geography. A 2022, Deloitte report states there is an 8% increase in green jobs between 2021-2022, outpacing the overall UK employment growth of 0.5%. Aligning with the UK Government's net zero targets, the Green Jobs Taskforce emphasises the role of digital and data skills, further accentuating the employability and impact of geography graduates.

What should I study alongside geography?

Geography works particularly well with other humanities subjects such as economics, history, religious studies, politics and government, but is also frequently combined with maths, biology or chemistry.

Is there anything else I should consider?

The course requires extended essay writing, with essays up to 33 marks, as well as use of statistics. The NEA, which is worth 20% of the overall grade, is completed independently from conception of research idea through to methods and analysis.

Students must read widely and engage with a lot of material outside of the classroom to be able to contextualise the concepts we study.