



Geography

Neil Miller

Course Aims - The study of geography aims to help students critically engage with contemporary real world issues and places, using concepts, theories, knowledge and skills to analyse and evaluate important and sometimes controversial topics. Students will be encouraged to grow into independent thinkers and informed global citizens, helping them to understand the role and importance of geography as one of the key disciplines relevant to understanding the world's changing peoples, places and environments.

Required Qualifications - A grade 6 at GCSE in Geography.

Course Structure:

Paper 1	
Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards	The significant risk posed by tectonic hazards in many global regions, exacerbated by growing population and low levels of development. Students will assess the potential for, risk of, and management options for, major disasters in the form of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis.
Topic 2B: Coastal Landscapes and Change	The formation of diverse coastal landscapes on a local and global scale, considering physical and human factors that make managing these fragile landscapes challenging. Students will explore significant contemporary issues such as atmospheric hazards and climate change.
Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity	The vital importance of water to supporting life on earth, and the physical processes that drive the hydrological cycle. Students will investigate the human and physical processes that influence stores of water around the planet, and consider the consequences of water insecurity, such as conflict.
Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security	The importance of the carbon cycle in maintaining planetary health. Students will study the changes to carbon stores and fluxes triggered by physical and human factors, as well as assessing the serious threat human actions pose to the health of the planet both now and in the future.
Paper 2	
Topic 3: Globalisation	The far-reaching influence of globalisation, and the growing interdependence between economies, political systems and cultures. Students will explore the consequences of this process, considering issues such as inequality, cultural identity and environmental degradation.
Topic 4A: Regenerating Places	The core concepts surrounding places and their function, and why they vary. Students will study the different characteristics of their local place and a contrasting place, to gain a stronger understanding of the important issues facing many rural and urban areas on a local, national and global scale.
Topic 7: Superpowers	The characteristics, power struggles and interaction between global superpower nations. Students will investigate the impact of superpowers on the global economy, global politics and the environment, as well as the geopolitical implications of contested spheres of influence.
Topic 8B: Migration, Identity and Sovereignty	The consequences of international migration and global governance on national identity and territorial sovereignty. Students will study the consequences of contemporary trends in migration and consider how relationships between nations have promoted stability for some whilst tensions for others.

Assessment and Fieldwork - **Three exams, including a synoptic paper (worth 80%)** and a **non-examined assessment (worth 20%)**. Students will undertake a **compulsory three-day field-trip to Swanage, Dorset** in the spring term of Year 12, carried out in relation to processes in physical and human geography. We also run an **optional field-trip to Iceland every two years**.

Future Pathways and Careers - Geography is very highly respected by all universities, including Oxbridge and the Russell Group, as one of the 'facilitating' subjects. It combines well with sciences and other humanities subjects, developing critical practical skills, the process of geographical investigation, analysis and fieldwork, and sustained evaluative written communication. A geography A-level is useful for a variety of undergraduate degrees and career options, including law, academia, international relations, international development, education, environmental science, information sciences, planning, urban development, architecture, travel, global development, charitable organisations and business.