

Spalding Grammar School Sixth Form

Subject Information

Geography

Entry Requirement:

Grade 6 in GCSE Geography if studied or Grade 6 in GCSE English.

Awarding body: OCR

About the subject: The past five years have witnessed enormous changes in the UK and the wider world, from Brexit and COVID-19, to Trumpism and the Black Lives Matter protests. If you want to understand these changes, movements, and politics, study Geography. A-Level Geography is different to GCSE Geography. Whilst at GCSE you learn the foundations and underpinnings of the subject, at A-Level you're treated to its depth and diversity: Geography as a major academic discipline that provokes intense and profound debate touching on many of the deepest concerns of life and death. The climate emergency, (un)sustainable food production, natural hazards, the spread of disease and biopolitical reactions, the reasons for migration and the future of energy resources are just some of the challenges facing future generations that need to be tackled with care and urgency.

Choosing Geography can open the doors to a university degree, either specifically in Geography or a cognate discipline, or as a supporting subject. By bridging the arts and the sciences, Geography gives great flexibility for later courses in Higher Education and universities love it

Employers also prize both the skills and the knowledge that studying Geography can provide, be it knowing how the world works, report writing, working in a team, using new technologies, or communication and evaluative skills. You will find geographers working in a wide range of jobs: from town and regional planning, tourism, conservation and the environment, NGOs, international charities, technical and engineering support to retail. It is well known that students with Geography qualifications become some of the most employable in our society.

Assessment: 2 Year linear course, examinable at the end of Year 13.

- **Paper 1 : Physical systems** 66 marks (90 mins) 22 % of total A level
 - Glaciated Landscapes
 - Earth's Life Support Systems
- **Paper 2 : Human interactions** 66 marks (90 mins) 22% of total A level
 - Changing Spaces; Making Places
 - Global Connections (Global Migration and Human Rights)
- **Paper 3 : Geographical debates** 108 marks (2hrs 30mins) 36% of total A level
 - Climate Change
 - Tectonic Hazards
- **Independent investigation:** 20% of total A level
 - Independently written report (3000 - 4000 words) based on data collected through fieldwork

The three exam papers will consist of a combination of short answer, medium length and extended response questions and are externally marked. Students will develop fieldwork skills in the context of both Human and Physical Geography and they will become proficient in a range of research and investigative skills. The specification requires a minimum of four days of fieldwork to acquire the skills necessary to undertake the independent investigation. These 'practise' fieldwork days take place in Snowdonia and in London, and double up as valuable first-hand experiences that contribute to your knowledge of the glaciated landscapes and changing spaces units. Moreover, they are just fantastic trips you will never forget.

Further information is available on <http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/223012-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-geography-h481.pdf>