Spalding Grammar School Sixth Form

Subject Information

Geography

Entry Requirement:

*Grade 6 in GCSE Geography if studied **or** Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics **and** Grade 6 in GCSE English.*

Awarding body: OCR

About the subject: Geography is not only up-to-date and relevant, it is one of the most exciting and valuable subjects to study today. So many of the world's current problems boil down to geography, and need the geographers of the future to help us understand them. Global warming, sustainable food production, natural disasters, the spread of disease, the reasons for migration and the future of energy resources are just some of the great challenges facing the next generation of geographers.

Choosing Geography can open the doors to a university degree, either specifically in Geography or by combining Geography with other A Levels to gain a place on a degree programme in another subject. By bridging the arts and the sciences it gives great flexibility for later courses in Higher Education.

Many employers 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, to name a few. It is well documented that students with Geography qualifications become some of the most employable in our society. Studying Geography can help young people achieve careers that are professionally and financially rewarding and also enjoyable.

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.

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