

Geography

GCE Student Guide



What will I study?

Unit	Areas of Study
AS 1: Physical Geography	<p>In this unit you will study three broad topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rivers: processes, landforms, management and flooding; • Ecosystems: location, characteristics, functioning and succession; and • Weather and Climate: processes which create our weather, weather systems in the British Isles as well as global weather issues including the El Niño Southern Oscillation and tropical storms. <p>Your knowledge and understanding of these topics will be enhanced by relevant case studies at a range of scales from small-scale to global.</p>
AS 2: Human Geography	<p>In this unit you study three broad topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population: population data, population change through fertility and mortality, population models and policies; • Settlement: issues in rural-urban fringe, the need for planning and inner city issues; and • Development: measuring development, development goals, aid, globalisation and emerging markets. <p>Your knowledge and understanding of these topics will be enhanced by relevant case studies at a range of scales from small-scale to global.</p>
AS 3: Fieldwork Skills and Techniques in Geography	<p>In this unit you will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be actively involved in first-hand collecting of geographical data through fieldwork; • use statistical and graphical techniques to analyse data collected from fieldwork; • describe, analyse, interpret and evaluate evidence and draw conclusions; and • apply geographical skills including graphing, mapping and statistical testing to unseen materials.
A2 1: Physical Processes, Landforms and Management	<p>In this unit you will study two out of four options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option A: Plate Tectonics: Theory and Outcomes • Option B: Tropical Ecosystems: Nature and Sustainability • Option C: Dynamic Coastal Environments • Option D: Climate Change: Past and Present <p>Your knowledge and understanding of your chosen options will be enhanced by relevant case studies at a range of scales from small-scale to global.</p>
A2 2: Processes and Issues in Human Geography	<p>In this unit you will study two out of four options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option A: Cultural Geography • Option B: Planning for Sustainable Settlements • Option C: Ethnic Diversity • Option D: Tourism <p>Your knowledge and understanding of your chosen options will be enhanced by relevant case studies at a range of scales from small-scale to global.</p>
A2 3: Decision Making in Geography	<p>This unit takes the form of a case study set within a real world context. You will be given a wide range of resource materials including reports, infographics, photographs and maps. You will use the skills and techniques developed throughout your course to consider the issue, make a decision and justify it on the basis of the greater overall benefits.</p>

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How will I be assessed?

Each examination will be assessed only in the summer series.

Unit	Assessment Description	Weighting
AS 1: Physical Geography	1 hour 15 minutes Section A: Answer all three compulsory, short, structured questions, one on each theme. Section B: There are three questions requiring extended writing, one on each theme. You will answer any two questions.	40% of AS 16% of A level
AS 2: Human Geography	1 hour 15 minutes Section A: Answer all three compulsory, short, structured questions, one on each theme. Section B: There are three questions requiring extended writing, one on each theme. You will answer any two questions.	40% of AS 16% of A level
AS 3: Fieldwork Skills and Techniques in Geography	1 hour You will bring a table of data and a summary statement to the examination covering the aims and context for your fieldwork. There are two compulsory, structured questions. For Question 1 you may be required to present, analyse, interpret and evaluate your fieldwork data and the techniques used to collect it. For Question 2 you will apply your geographical skills to qualitative and quantitative data provided for you in the exam.	20% of AS 8% of A level
A2 1: Physical Processes, Landforms and Management	1 hour 30 minutes This paper has four sections. Each section corresponds to one of the four options and includes two structured questions. You will answer two full questions, one from each of your two chosen options.	24% of A level
A2 2: Processes and Issues in Human Geography	1 hour 30 minutes This paper has four sections. Each section corresponds to one of the four options and includes two structured questions. You will answer two full questions, one from each of your two chosen options.	24% of A level
A2 3: Decision Making in Geography	1 hour 30 minutes This is a compulsory decision-making exercise in the form of a case study. You will be required to adopt and maintain a particular role. You will be required to examine conflicting values that may be apparent in the case study. You will be required to consider alternative choices and to make recommendations and justify them.	12% of A level

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What can I do with a qualification in Geography?

By studying geography you will gain a greater understanding of people and places, weather systems, tourism, sustainable development, cultures and issues affecting people and places across the world.

This course will enable you to develop a wide range of transferable and employment skills such as investigating, collecting and recording data with accuracy, collating and evaluating information and being able to contribute to important debates on the current global issues.

You may just wish to study geography for your own personal interest, but if you wish to continue the study of geography at degree level, you will need to complete the full A level course.

Through your study of geography at A level you will develop a range of transferable skills that will be valuable for the world of work including working as part of a team, problem-solving, decision-making, creative thinking and managing information.

Many of the topics or issues that you will study will be reported in the media, for example, environmental concerns such as flooding, earthquakes and global warming as well as human issues including migration, conflict, terrorism and war. This close link between studying geography and global issues could lead to careers in aid work, environmental management or governmental occupations.

Many geography students go on to have successful and interesting careers in a wide and diverse range of areas such as urban planning, cartography, GIS applications, climatology, environmental management, weather forecasting, research, teaching and demography. Others use the skills acquired through the study of geography to pursue careers that require similar skills, for example, GIS related jobs, which is a growth area.

To find out more, visit the **CCEA Website** for the latest support and updates for this subject.

