Vyners School

Striving for Excellence

Welcome to the Geography Department

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Our Key Stage 5 Curriculum Overview

edexcel

At A Level students have the opportunity to study towards qualifications with ***Edexcel.*** Students will study a diverse range of topics, conduct fieldwork and complete an Independent Investigation (coursework).

Assessment outline:

Paper 1 - 30% of the qualification - 2 hours and 15 minutes
Paper 2 - 30% of the qualification - 2 hours and 15 minutes
Paper 3 - 20% of the qualification - 2 hours and 15 minutes
Independent Investigation - 20% of the qualification - coursework

"Geography has given me a new perspective of the world. It has inspired me to take my learning further and study ecology at university."
Year 13 Student

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Physical Geography - Paper 1

Tectonic Processes and Hazards

Landscape Systems, Processes and Change - Coastal Landscapes and Change.

The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity

The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security

This paper makes up 30% of the final A Level grade.

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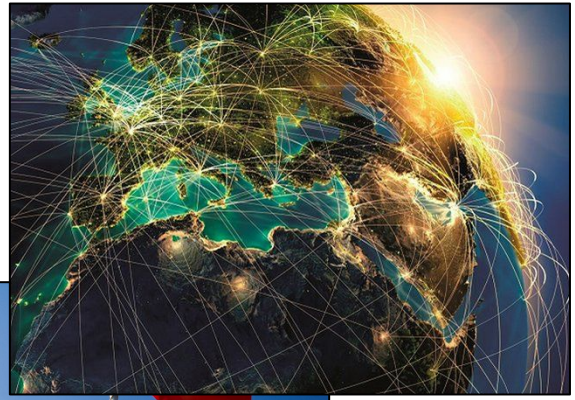
Human Geography - Paper 2



Globalisation

Shaping places - Regenerating Places

Superpowers

Global Development and Connections - Health, Human Rights and Intervention

This paper makes up 30% of the final A Level grade.

Geographical Exploration - Paper 3

This paper has no area of study, rather, students are expected to apply their Geographical knowledge to an unseen case study resource booklet.

From here, students will answer essay based questions around the Geographical information they have derived from resource booklet.

This paper makes up 20% of the final A Level grade.

Independent Investigation - Coursework

- The purpose of this coursework is to test students' skills in independent investigation.
- Students are required to undertake an independent investigation that involves (but need not be restricted to) fieldwork.
- The focus of the investigation must be derived from the specification that student is studying.
- The guidance for word length is 3000-4000 words.
- Student's investigations will incorporate fieldwork data (collected individually) and own research supplemented with secondary data.
- The student's report will evidence independent analysis and evaluation of data, presentation of data findings and extended writing.

This paper makes up 20% of the final A Level grade.

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Fieldwork

Students are required to complete a minimum of four days of fieldwork - therefore there is a cost to the course. Students investigate the regeneration of **Canary Wharf, London** as Human study (1 day trip). Our **residential trip** sees us investigate coastal changes for our Physical study and further regeneration for our Human study (3 day residential). The fieldwork will enable students to develop skills they can use in their *independent investigations* (see next slide).

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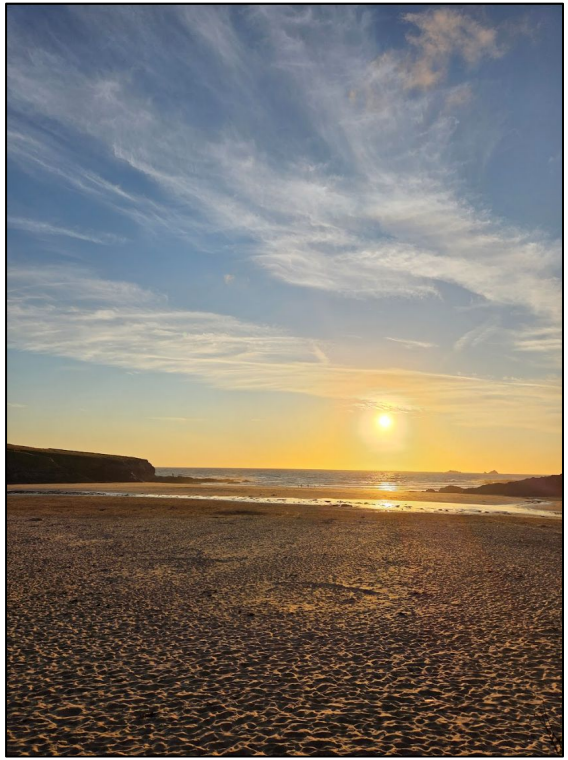

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Frequently Asked Questions

1. ***Do we go on lots of extra-curricular trips?***

Unfortunately no, we only have time to complete our required fieldwork. Therefore, there are two trips over the two years: 1 residential (3 days) and day trip (1 day) - exam requirement of 4 days of fieldwork. As such, there is a cost associated with the fieldwork.

2. ***What are the benefits of studying A-level Geography?***

Geography combines both arts and science subjects, as well as economics and business courses. It is highly valued by universities as an A-level choice as the 'must have A-level' - *The Guardian*. Geography students will have a range of opinions and be able to illustrate these with a wide variety of knowledge and case studies.

3. **How can Geography benefit my future job prospects?**

Geography is a broad based subject which provides lots of opportunities for future progression. For example, it is the obvious choice for careers in sustainability and green issues, urban regeneration, hazard management and energy supply. For careers in the world of business, an understanding of global economies and connections is an important, as seen in Paper 2 of Geography. If you are thinking of a career in law, human rights, international relation or welfare, then Geography gives you the opportunity to consider relevant issues such as: 'How do we measure development?'; 'What are the consequences of migration on societies?'.

We look forward to meeting you in September 2026!