

GEOGRAPHY (AQA: A-Level 7037)

“Geography at Queenswood offers a stimulating insight into politics, economics, sociology, natural systems and world issues.”

Geography at A-Level appeals to the student with an enquiring mind who is interested in the world beyond the classroom, and wants to acquire skills which are varied and transferable to the 21st-century international workplace. This is an exciting new syllabus: students build on their GCSE knowledge to explore relevant contemporary themes such as global climate change and the implications of economic globalisation. There has never been a better or more important time to study Geography.

Expectations of independent study

At A-Level all students will complete tasks set after every lesson. They will also be expected to write up a field work investigation after practical field work. Extensive reading of articles and newspapers will enable access to the higher grades.

Course Components

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Component 1

- Section A: Water and Carbon Cycle
- Section B: either Hot Desert Systems and Landscapes or Coastal Systems and Landscapes or Glacial Systems and Landscapes
- Section C: either Hazards or Ecosystems under Stress
- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes; 40% of A-Level

Component 2

- Section A: Global Systems and Global Governance
- Section B: Changing Places
- Section C: either Contemporary Urban Environments or Population and the Environment or Resource Security
- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes; 40% of A-Level

Component 3

- Students complete an individual independent investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.
- 3,000-4,000 words; 20% of A-Level

Why study Geography?

In what other subject could you study topics as relevant, diverse and engaging as population and migration, AIDS and development, decision making related to sustainable coastal protection and the management of natural hazards such as hurricanes and wildfires?

Geography at Queenswood is taught interactively using a variety of methods, such as researching with technology and the extensive use of media and visual aids in lessons. Fieldwork plays a key part in supporting teaching, with opportunities for visits to North Yorkshire, London, Cambridge, and an international trip every two years. There is also the option to attend A-Level study days at the Royal

Geographical Society (RGS) in London, or other providers. Here the girls will learn from examiner experts how to achieve top grades in exams and will have access to unique case study material on issues relevant to the Geography course.

Students will become independent enquirers with strong cartographic, ICT, statistical, and graphical skills. They will have the ability to work with their peers out in the field collecting primary data as well as making use of wider research options. They will be able to communicate geographical evidence, ideas and arguments. Students will become empathetic global citizens.

Students are also encouraged to explore beyond the syllabus and take part in academic essay competitions and other opportunities run by the RGS, Geographical Association and universities such as Cambridge.

What career pathways are open to me if I study this subject?

Queenswood students frequently opt to study Geography at University. Geography is relevant to many professions and is recognised by the Russell Group as one of the most rigorous and robust A-Levels that facilitates a path into the world of work. Geographers work in a wide range of professionally and financially rewarding environments such as Finance, Property, Investment, Planning, Travel, Tourism, Government and Aid Agencies.

Whatever your passion for the world – fascination with landscapes or concerns about inequality – Geography will provide you with knowledge and transferable skills that will reward you personally and advance you professionally.



WHERE NEXT?

Colette Bacon

Geography at the University of Durham

Studied Geography, English Literature and Mathematics