

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GEOGRAPHY

Rochdale
sixth form
college

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WHAT IS GEOGRAPHY?

Geography is the study of peoples, places and the interactions that take place between and within them. Environments can be both physical or human and exist at a range of scales, with complex systems developing in terms of the interactions that take place. Geographers endeavor to understand the world we live in so as to manage and address the conflicts and challenges that arise.

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WHY SHOULD I STUDY A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY?

Geography is an academic subject, however it is heavily grounded in the real-world. Whether or not you go on to pursue a university course or career related to Geography, you will ultimately gain a genuine in-depth, current and accurate understanding of the major contemporary global issues of our time – Climate Change, Globalisation, Geopolitics, Changing World Order, Increased Resourced Demand and so on.

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WHAT TOPICS DO YOU STUDY?

Broadly speaking, half-and-half Physical and Human Geography:

	PHYSICAL	HUMAN
YEAR 12	- Tectonic Processes and Hazards - Glaciated Landscapes and Change	- Globalisation - Regenerating Places
YEAR 13	- Water Cycle and Water Insecurity - Carbon Cycle and Energy Security	- Superpowers - Migration, Identity and Sovereignty

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HOW IS GEOGRAPHY ASSESSED?

Written Exams: 80%
Coursework: 20%

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WHAT WERE THE RESULTS LIKE IN GEOGRAPHY IN THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS?

	RSFC (2019)	NATIONAL (2019)	RSFC (2020)
PASS RATE	100%	98%	100%
A*-D GRADES	100%	93%	100%
A*-B GRADES	64%	53%	70%
COURSEWORK	76%	-	-

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DO YOU GO ON ANY FIELD TRIPS?

A requirement of A Level Geography is to carry out a minimum of 4 days field work over the 2-year programme. We organise trips to The Lake District and around the local area and students are required to carry out fieldwork as part of their coursework. This year, this has been affected by Covid-19 restrictions.

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WHAT SUBJECTS GO WELL WITH GEOGRAPHY?

Geography occupies the middle-ground between the Sciences and Arts. There is some direct cross-over with subjects such as Biology, Chemistry, Economics and Business, however it complements most subjects and every year there is a real mix. For example, Physics and Maths go well for students looking to move into Architecture or Engineering, just as Business and Economics complement a future in that direction. Similarly, Geography goes well with English for careers in Journalism – there are countless combinations!

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WHAT DEGREE SUBJECTS CAN I TAKE WITH A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY?

Again, the list is endless as it can depend on the whole combination of A Levels. Geography-related degrees range from Development Studies to Ecology, as well as pure Geography. Even within a Geography degree there is a wide range of specialisms, from International Relations to Meteorology.

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WHAT GEOGRAPHY-RELATED CAREERS ARE THERE?

Unsurprisingly there is a huge range of career paths related to Geography. These include careers as diverse as Council Planning, Aid Workers, Journalist, Environmental Protection, Climatology, Politics and Teaching. Geography degrees and A levels are seen as one of the most employable qualifications due to the range of transferrable skills, ranging from data handling and statistical analysis to literacy and research skills.

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WHAT ARE THE CLASS SIZES?

There are two classes in each year, with the current sizes ranging from 21-25.

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WHATEXAM BOARD DO YOU USE?

Edexcel.