

A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY



Course description

Awarding Body: Edexcel (Pearson)

Examinations

1. Tectonic Hazards, Coastal Landscapes, Water Insecurity and Energy Security.
2. Globalisation, Regenerating Places, Superpowers; Migration, Identity and Sovereignty.
3. Located Synoptic analysis.

Non Examined Assessment

An Independent Investigation

Course content

Geography at Newstead Wood School follows an engaging and contemporary issues based course. A holistic overview of the subject is created through a focus on the attitudes and actions of different players (individuals, groups and organisations) involved in geographical issues and decision making and how this influence the future and its uncertainties. The course builds on and advances GCSE knowledge and skills as well as developing new topic areas, progressing towards undergraduate study, including Oxbridge.

Alongside the taught content student undertake fieldwork opportunities to apply and evaluate theory in the real world and as part of the Independent Investigation. Early in Year 12 students are given the opportunity to consider an area of geographical research which is of particular interest to them. They then develop a fieldwork and research program to investigate this at depth and produce a report with depth and rigor equal to a level three Extended Project Qualification.

Entry requirements

Grade 7 or above in GCSE Geography or aligned subject.

Future opportunities

The evidence shows that A level Geography is regarded as one of the most employable subjects students can study (DTI, 2001), developing the broadest range of key and soft skills of any subject, alongside a holistic and synoptic view of the world. A level Geography bridges the humanities and sciences and is a facilitating subject for all universities undergraduate courses opening up an incredibly diverse range of career paths.

During the A level course students will be offered a range of opportunities including lecture visits and fieldwork, including both a UK residential fieldtrip and an opportunity to visit Iceland. Year 12 are also invited to apply for positions as Student Subject Leaders who promote the subject across the school, running Geography clubs, mentor younger students, run GCSE revision sessions, speak to parents at Open Evening and generally be ambassadors for the subject across all Key Stages.

Further information

Newstead Wood Geography department results are consistently strong. In 2018 100% Year 13 Geography students achieved A or B grades. They also develop a passion for the subject and are very keen to move on to undergraduate Geography or related courses at a range of universities, including Oxbridge. In 2018 50% of Year 13 followed a geographical pathway.

Newstead Wood Geography students have gone on to a range of careers over the years including doctors, vets, solicitors, barristers, secondary school headteachers, finance, government departments, charity leadership and academics.