In GCSE Geography, we follow the EDEXCEL Geography B specification course, which is an issues based syllabus.

The specification is based upon 3 main components, focussing on 9 topics:

Component 1 – Global Geographical Issues:

Topic 1 – Hazardous Earth

Topic 2 – Development Dynamics

Topic 3 – Challenges of an Urbanising World

Component 2 – UK Geographical Issues:

Topic 4 – The UK’s Evolving Physical Landscape

Topic 5 – The UK’s Evolving Human Landscape

Topic 6 – Geographical Investigations; one compulsory Physical field trip and one compulsory Human field trip (cost approximately £45 for both trips)

Component 3 – People and Environment Issues:

Topic 7 – People and the Biosphere 23

Topic 8 – Forests Under Threat

Topic 9 – Consuming Energy Resources

Assessments:

Paper 1 – 1 hour and 30 minutes testing Topic 1, 2 and 3 worth 37.5% of the qualification. The exam includes multiple-choice questions, short open, open response and extended writing questions, calculations and 8-mark extended writing questions.

Paper 2 – 1 hour and 30 minutes testing Topic 4, 5 and 6 worth 37.5% of the qualification. The exam includes multiple-choice questions, short open, open response and extended writing questions, calculations and 8-mark extended writing questions.

Paper 3 – 1 hour and 30 minutes testing Topic 7, 8 and 9 worth 25% of the qualification. The exam includes multiple-choice questions, short open, open response and extended writing questions. Section C will include 8-mark extended writing questions and Section D will offer a choice of one from three decisions assessed through a 12-mark extended writing question.

These components will be studied using a variety of relevant case studies throughout the course from different parts of the world. The work undertaken will provide students with the opportunity to carry out group work, individual research, use of ICT, fieldwork and decision making activities.

Why choose Geography?

Geography is an extremely adaptable subject which tackles many present day issues. It complements many other subjects at AS/A2 level and is recognised by the Russell Group universities as a facilitating subject.

Geography is an excellent subject for careers in the travel, tourist and leisure industry, in environmental, conservation, energy and wildlife work, in teaching, management planning, surveying, civil service, engineering, accounting and finance, the armed services and any other work where the ability to handle data, solve problems, interpret diagrams or have a broad outlook on things is an advantage. It provides students with an invaluable insight into the changing nature of the world and the challenges it faces.