

GEOGRAPHY

EXAM BOARD: OCR

Why study Geography?

The Geography team at Stratford upon Avon School believe in preparing our students to be global citizens. We recognise that our students are highly likely to pursue careers linked to global issues, work for global companies or travel and work abroad. Geography A level provides the perfect preparation for this future, as well as allowing students to develop a vast range of transferable skills through the study of topical geographical issues.

“Where we come from, what we do, what we eat, how we move about and how we shape our future are all directly the province of the geographer. More than ever we need the geographer’s skills and foresight to help us learn about the planet; how we use it and how we abuse it.” Michael Palin



Subject Specification Outline:

This specification consists of four units:

- Physical Systems (Coastal Landscapes and Earth's Life Support Systems)
- Human Interactions (Changing Places, Global Connections)
- Geographical Debates (Topical Issues such as Natural Hazards and Climate Change) 13.

- Independent Investigation (coursework)

There is a strong emphasis upon geographical skills running throughout each topic area and techniques such as data presentation and manipulation will be explored in addition to subject content.

Opportunities to develop these skills further will be drawn together during a residential field trip at the start of Year 13.

Progress Assessment:

3 exams (80% of total A-Level) one for each of the units above which include traditional questions as well as synoptic style assessment and the assessment of geographical skills). 20% of the total A-Level is coursework.

Final Exam Format:

All exams contain a combination of source based questions, short answer and essay style questions. There is also a requirement to tackle questions involving geographical skills, e.g. data analysis/statistics and data presentation.

Self Study Requirements:

Students should be prepared to spend as much time studying outside the classroom as they do in lessons. This would include homework set by teachers, additional reading and research and keeping an eye on current geographical news stories. We would also encourage an active ownership of their coursework area, with personal responsibility to ensure deadlines are met and case study evidence is purposefully assembled.

Progression Pathways: A good A-Level geographer can write well, manipulate data, work in a team, problem solve, understand current affairs; they are highly employable! There are a range of higher education possibilities that would also build on this A-Level. There is a strong 'skills element' in the A - Level where statistical skills will be developed so Maths is also a good subject to combine it with. Possible careers include: local government, resource management, logistics, environmental management, climatology, development work, population and service planning, education, environment agency (flood prediction and management).