

# Geography

## Exam Board: WJEC

Geography is a subject that involves the study of the dynamic world in which we live. It develops knowledge of physical and human environments as well as an understanding of the processes that have formed them. It focuses on the present day world and the issues involved in its development. It encourages students to formulate views about the dynamic changes that are taking place at a local and global scale. Fieldwork is a crucial aspect of this course.

### Minimum Entry Requirements

- A minimum of 6 A\* to C grades at GCSE with a **B** grade in Geography or a **B** grade in English if Geography was not studied at GCSE.

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs A Knight (Head of Faculty).

### The AS course

This is divided into two sections that investigate the vibrant nature of the world around us and how this has an impact on the lives we lead.

#### Unit 1: Changing landscapes (AS Level 60% / A Level 24%)

The first theme involves the study of coastal landscapes developed by the interaction of winds, waves and currents and the sediment supply from terrestrial and offshore sources. The impact of human activity as a factor causing change within coastal landscape systems will also be studied. The second theme is based on a study of the structure of the Earth and the processes operative within the asthenosphere and lithosphere. These processes and their distribution are closely related to tectonic activity at plate boundaries. Learners will develop in-depth knowledge of Tectonic Hazards and the interrelationships between people and environment.

#### Unit 2: Changing Places (AS Level 40% / A Level 16%)

This theme focuses on places and their dynamic characteristics with Wales and especially the place(s) where the student lives forming the major context, although wider scales are addressed where appropriate. In the second theme the focus is on fieldwork opportunities related to Changing Landscapes and Changing Places. The learner's own physical and human fieldwork investigations as well as general physical and human fieldwork skills will be assessed in this unit.

### The A2 course

The sections that make up the A2 course address more in-depth study of two themes:

#### Unit 3: Global Systems and Global Governance (A Level 24%)

This unit is divided into three themes. The Water and Carbon Cycles theme is based on the physical processes which control the cycling of both water and carbon between land, oceans and the atmosphere. Learners will gain an understanding of the key role played by the carbon and water cycles in supporting life on Earth. The theme Global Governance: Change and Challenges covers processes and patterns of global migration and the global governance of the Earth's oceans. In the third theme, 21st Century Challenges, assessment will focus on learners' ability to draw together elements from across the course.

#### Unit 4: Contemporary themes in Geography (A Level 16%)

Section A is an extension of the AS Tectonic Hazards theme. Knowledge and understanding previously learnt will be utilised when addressing the content to ensure progression from AS to A2. Section B is based on two optional themes selected from four: Ecosystems, Economic Growth and Challenge, Energy Challenges and Dilemmas, Weather and Climate. The optional themes have been designed to make links between physical and human geography and to focus on people-environment interactions.

#### Unit 5: Independent Investigation (A Level 20%)

This non-exam assessment requires one written independent investigation, based on the collection of both primary data and secondary information. The focus of the investigation must be derived from the specification content. The independent investigation builds on the fieldwork developed throughout the specification.

### Career Opportunities

As a result of the breadth of knowledge and skills acquired, the subject is highly regarded for careers in such areas as law, management, business, planning, medicine, engineering, journalism and the environment.