

A level	Course Content	Assessment (end of Year 2)
Year 1	Water and carbon cycles Hot desert environments and their margins Population and the environment	Component 1: Physical Geography: Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes, 40% of A-level Component 2: Human Geography: Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes, 40% of A-level Component 3: Geographical investigation: 3,000–4,000 words, 35 marks, 20% of A-level
Year 2	Global systems and global governance Changing place; changing places Hazards	

Why do geography?

In August 2015 the Guardian newspaper declared Geography to be the 'must-have A-level'. They were right! As citizens of the twenty-first century never before have we enjoyed such instant and virtually unlimited access to information about, and across, our planet. At the same time one glance at the news on any given day and you could perhaps be forgiven for thinking that never before have the people on this planet faced such global challenges; from climate change, resource depletion, growing inequality, escalating conflict, cultural intolerance and desperate population movements.

So how do you try and make sense of it all? Simple, only the unique multi-disciplinary nature of contemporary Geography can, and does, bring all of the above issues and many more together.

If you're thinking some of that sounds a bit heavy we do of course look at natural processes, but let's not forget that rivers, deserts and all eco-systems are impacted on to some extent by us. The A-level updates for 2016 have allowed new Geography specifications to fully recognise the complexity of people-environment interactions in a rapidly changing world, essentially all of this means we look at stuff that matters!

Where are they now?

Kate Watson

I studied Geography, Law, English language and literature, Philosophy and Religion. I was involved in law debates and a mock UN conference in Birmingham. I also volunteered in the Geography department for open days.

I am currently studying Geography (BA) at the University of Manchester and I love it! I enjoy studying human Geography particularly international development and the dynamic nature less developed regions.

After Uni I plan to take a gap year following graduation in order to pursue my desires to travel and also to take time to discover exactly what career I wish to take. Geography can take me down a plethora of pathways so my career options are incredibly varied.

Martin Walsh

I was at Winstanley from 2010 to 2012 and did Geography, Biology, Maths and General Studies. Outside of class I visited The Gambia, where I was able to work in partnership with a local primary school; also Iceland, an experience I shall never forget for the extra-ordinary landscapes we witnessed. The college offered many opportunities to create an amazing portfolio of skills such as first aid training and charity fund raising. After Winstanley, I began a degree in BA Geography at Lancaster University. No two lessons are ever the same in Geography. For example I have loved being able to study in depth: the cultures of postcolonial Africa; the theories of multispecies living and the techniques used in GIS. Having recently finished my degree, I begin my Primary Education PGCE in September at Edge Hill University. This takes me one step closer to becoming a fully qualified teacher, being able to enthuse my class in all the different subjects...but especially Geography.

Learning outside the classroom

Tutorials: Offered during lunchtimes in the first and third terms to support students with further questions related to classroom learning.

Mentors: We offer a buddy system where A2 students support AS students who have questions about the course. We feel this is mutually beneficial and helps to create a secure and friendly cohesive learning environment.

Societies: Keep on Geogging is a student led Earth Sciences Club who offer regular Geography related quizzes, film screenings and speakers during lunchtimes.

Activities: We offer a wide variety of activities in lessons. These may range from essay writing master classes, paired mystery activities, group presentations, 'speed dating' learning, individual research, field trips and audio visual support.

Competitions: Regular challenges are organised for students to compete in. These include external competitions for example the National Geographic's Young Geographer of the Year as well as internal contests like the Great Geographical Bake Off!

On line resources for independent study: We use Drop Box to file all of our resources (including lessons) for students to access easily and remotely. Drop Box also contains a variety of extra support materials on how to answer questions, model answers, key word definitions. Drop Box also contains extra reading and mark schemes for high achieving students.

Moving Up from GCSE

No experience necessary but you should have a passion for both Human and Physical Geography and be prepared for some mathematics in Unit 2 of the AS.