

GEOGRAPHY

There has never been a better time to study geography than today, Global warming, sustainable food production, natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis, the spread of disease, the reasons for migration and the future of energy resources are just some of the great challenges facing the next generation of geographers.

“Geography explains the past, illuminates the present and prepares us for the future. What could be more important than that?” Michael Palin.

Structure of the course at BSS:

Physical Geography

Water and Carbon Cycles
Coastal Systems and Landscapes
Hazards

How it's assessed:

Written exam: 2 hours and 30 minutes
120 marks
40% of A level



Human Geography

Global Systems and Global Governance
Changing Places
Contemporary Urban Environments

How it's assessed:

Written exam: 2 hours and 30 minutes
120 marks
40% of A level



Geographical Investigation (NEA)

Students complete an individual investigation which includes data collected from fieldwork. Students **must** undertake 4 days of fieldwork as part of the A level course. *There is a financial contribution for the fieldwork.*

How it's assessed:

4000 - 5000 words, 60 marks
20% of A level



Why study Geography at A-Level?

Geography is an academically robust subject which spans the social and physical sciences and promotes a lifelong interest and fascination in how our natural and human work are intricately linked. Geography is a unique subject as it can be utilized in university applications as it is regarded as a science and a humanity subject. Geography develops and expands your skills of justifying arguments, looking at holistic approaches to key topical issues whilst writing up essays in a succinct manner. The knowledge and transferable skills that geographers gain from their A-Level and degree studies are highly relevant to the workplace. The methods of investigation, analytical skills and synoptic thinking involved in Geography are very useful training for a variety of careers, from journalism to law and sustainable development to environmental engineering, town or transport planning, surveying, conservation, sustainability, waste and water management, environmental planning, tourism, and weather forecasting.

Skills you will gain and develop:

Intellectual skills, such as critically evaluating theories and judging evidence in order to make informed decisions and to develop reasoned arguments

Research skills, such as using a range of technical methods for the collection and analysis of spatial and environmental data, and undertaking fieldwork

Transferable skills, such as teamwork, problem solving, IT skills, communication skills (presentation, writing, debating)

Personal attributes, such as time-management, development of responsibility, coping with uncertainty, self-reflection, motivation, flexibility, and creativity.

Which subjects does geography work well with?

Economics	Globalisation and transnational companies in addition to geopolitics. Economic change on a global, national and local scale is exploited in HIC's, NEE's and LIC's.
Geology	Hazards, volcanoes and earthquakes marry very well with the structure of the earth theme.
Biology	Water and carbon topic is underpinned by biological systems to explore the importance of climate change of our planet.
Maths	Manipulating data and looking at trends, using quantitative as supporting evidence to critically assess trends.
History	Analytic and evaluative skills of sources and theories.
English	Writing like a geographer whilst using persuasive literacy skills to examine the role of geographical concepts.

ENRICHMENT

Geography Society – lead by Year 12 and Year 13 students

Human Fieldtrip to London Docklands and Stratford (1 day)

Physical Fieldtrip to Cumbria/ Dorset (3 days)

Contact details

Mrs T Harvey (Head of Geography)

tharvey@bishopstopford.com