**Geography**

**Examination Board: CCEA**

**AS** and **A2 Geography** continue to build on the knowledge, understanding and skills that students have built up during their GCSE Geography.

The aim of the course is to develop an awareness of societies and environments around the world and to recognise the challenges that we face. Case-studies are used to build up an awareness of global issues while fieldwork is used to develop and apply learning to the real world. The decision-making element of the A2 course also aims to develop proficiency in report writing, data analysis and in the skills of enquiry, interpretation and time management.

Students will be encouraged to be critical thinkers and to become effective and independent learners and communicators. Students will also become adept in the use and application of key skills and technologies. These are all key skills in further education and employment, and students of Geography are highly prized for their broad-based and relevant knowledge and skills, entering professions such as:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Urban planner Real estate developer Demographer Travel/tourism planning Waste management Forestry technician | Hydrologist Ecologist Geologist Climatologist Cartographer Ecotourism planner | Remote-sensing analyst GIS/GPS analyst Field surveyor Conservationist Outdoor recreation management Computer mapping and software developer |

AS Geography

AS Geography consists of three units in the first year of study.

* **Unit 1 Themes in Physical Geography**

*Fluvial environments, Global Biomes and Weather and Climate.*

* **Unit 2 Themes in Human Geography**

*Population and Resources, Settlement Change and Measuring Development.*

* **UNIT 3 FIELDWORK SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES IN GEOGRAPHY**

*Primary and Secondary data handling.*

***Assessment of AS Modules***

**Units 1 and 2 are assessed as below:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Section A** | Three short structured questions; one from each of the themes | **Each** paper is worth**40% of AS;** **16% of A Level** |
| **Section B** | Two essay questions, chosen from the three themes. |

**Unit 3 will be assessed as below:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Section A** | Structured questions based on a fieldwork investigation. | This paper is worth**20% of AS;****8% of A Level** |
| **Section B** | Structured questions based on secondary data sources. |

**A2 Geography**

For those students who wish to take a full A Level in Geography, there will be three further units studied in the second year of the course. These build on AS topics, going into greater depth and looking specifically at man’s impact on our planet and the issues of sustainability that we face.

* **UNIT A2:1 Physical processes, landforms and management**

*Plate tectonics: Theory and Outcomes*

*Dynamic Coastal Environments*

* **UNIT A2:2 PROCESSES AND ISSUES IN HUMAN GEOGRAPY**

*Planning for Sustainable Settlements*

*Tourism*

* ***UNIT A2:3 DECISION MAKING IN GEOGRAPHY***

*A skills exercise whereby students are provided with a variety of resources such as maps, diagrams and text. They are asked to analyse resources, consider various alternatives and taking on a particular role, to make a justified decision*.

***Assessment of A2 Modules***

* **UNIT A2:1**

 **24% of A Level** This module will be assessed by a 1 hour 30 minute examination.

 There will be a choice of two questions from the Units studied in Section A.

 All questions are structured and will contain a section relating to

 case study material.

* **UNIT A2:2**

 **24% of A Level** This module will be assessed by a 1 hour 30 minute examination.

There will be a choice of two questions from the Units studied in

 Section A.

 All questions are structured and will contain a section relating to

 case study material.

* **UNIT A2:3**

 **12% of A Level** This unit will be assessed by a 1 hour 30 minute decision making

 skills exercise.