

TITLE	GEOGRAPHY (A LEVEL)
BOARD	AQA
INTRODUCTION	Geography is a subject that is relevant to everyone's life and experiences. The A level course is designed for students who have lively and enquiring minds and an interest in the environment and current affairs. Students must be prepared to explore new ideas, and have an ability to communicate ideas effectively. The subject will provide them with the knowledge, understanding and skills for further study at higher education or for employment.
COURSE STRUCTURE	There are three elements to the course: Physical Geography, Human Geography and the Fieldwork Investigation. Within the physical side of the course students will study the water and carbon cycles, coastal systems and natural hazards. Human aspects of the course include global systems and governance, the study of 'place' and urban environments. Finally, there will be a minimum of four fieldwork days in the A level Geography course. During this time students will visit a number of different places and learn a range of different fieldwork methods. Students are then expected to write an investigation report based upon a topic of their choice.
ASSESSMENT	<p>Two written examinations (Physical Geography and Human Geography) are taken at the end of the Upper Sixth. Both papers are 2 hours 30 min in length and together they will account for 80% of the final marks. There will be a range of types of questions (multiple choice, short answer, data response and essays).</p> <p>A fieldwork investigation report (3000-4000 words) will account for the remaining 20% of the final marks.</p>
GENERAL COMMENTS	We consider that interest in the subject is just as important as the student's GCSE grade. Some mathematical skills are required, as is the ability to write clear English and use ICT. Students will be encouraged to work independently, supported by formal teaching sessions. There will be opportunities for fieldwork in a range of locations. The department has its own Sixth Form study area and well-stocked library to study individual interests further and promote independent learning.
PROGRESSION	Geography is a popular subject that offers an opportunity to link a student's interest in the 'sciences' and in the 'humanities', and combines well with almost all other courses. It is considered to be a 'facilitating subject' by the Russell Group universities. Equally, it can lead to a wide range of university courses in addition to Geography itself. Students will learn and use a wide variety of transferable skills throughout the course. These include the collection, analysis and interpretation of data, communication and identification and development of links within the subject. Such skills are in great demand and are recognised by employers and university as being of great value.
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	In order to study A level Geography you must have obtained a grade 6 at GCSE Geography.
	If you have any questions, please see Mr Ward.