

A Level Geography FAQ's



Why study Geography?

Geography is a broad-based academic subject which will open up options for you in your future. Employers and universities see geography as a robust academic subject rich in skills, knowledge and understanding. As a subject linking the arts and the sciences it is highly flexible in terms of what you can combine it with. If you choose to take geography on to university, there are literally hundreds of courses to choose from and the range of career areas accessed by graduates of geography will probably surprise you. For example, geography is an obvious choice for careers in sustainability and green issues, urban regeneration, energy supply, retail location, managing the effects of hazards and climate change. For careers in the world of business, an understanding of global economics forms an important part of geography. If you are thinking of a career in law, human rights, international relations or welfare, then geography gives you the opportunity to consider relevant issues such as *How do we measure development? What are the consequences of migration on societies?*

What is the exam board that I will be studying?

At Plymstock, we study the Edexcel Geography A Level:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Geography/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/Pearson-Edexcel-GCE-A-level-Geography-specification-issue-5-FINAL.pdf>

What does Geography at A Level involve?

Geography at A Level covers both human and physical environments and the integrations of processes that shape our world. It will also, importantly, show the applied side of the subject - how human intervention affects the environment and how people adapt and mitigate the effects of processes on their environment. This is complex and dynamic and varies from place to place depending on people's resources, technology and culture.

How will I learn?

You will learn in a wide variety of ways, using maps, GIS skills, data analysis, photos, videos, and podcasts. You will be encouraged to frame your own questions using higher level thinking skills and show your grasp of complex issues through report and essay writing.

Is there any fieldwork?

Four compulsory days of fieldwork are part of the new A Level course. Day trips will be taking place in the local area and will include both physical and human experiences.

Is the course all exam based?

The qualification comprises of 3 exam papers accounting for 80% and a NEA element accounting for 20% of the total qualification.

What type of questions are in the exam?

There is a mixture of short answer questions and extended essay questions. There are a range of mark questions included in the exam.

What do I need to do to achieve well in geography?

To get a top grade you will need to read around the subject in newspapers and through magazine and internet articles; TV and radio documentaries are a rich source of current issues too.

Can I study the A Level without having studied the GCSE?

It is not very common for this to happen, but we have accepted students onto the A Level with a strong performance in other Humanities subjects and English. Normally those students without the GCSE grounding will have to work more on their source analysis skills.

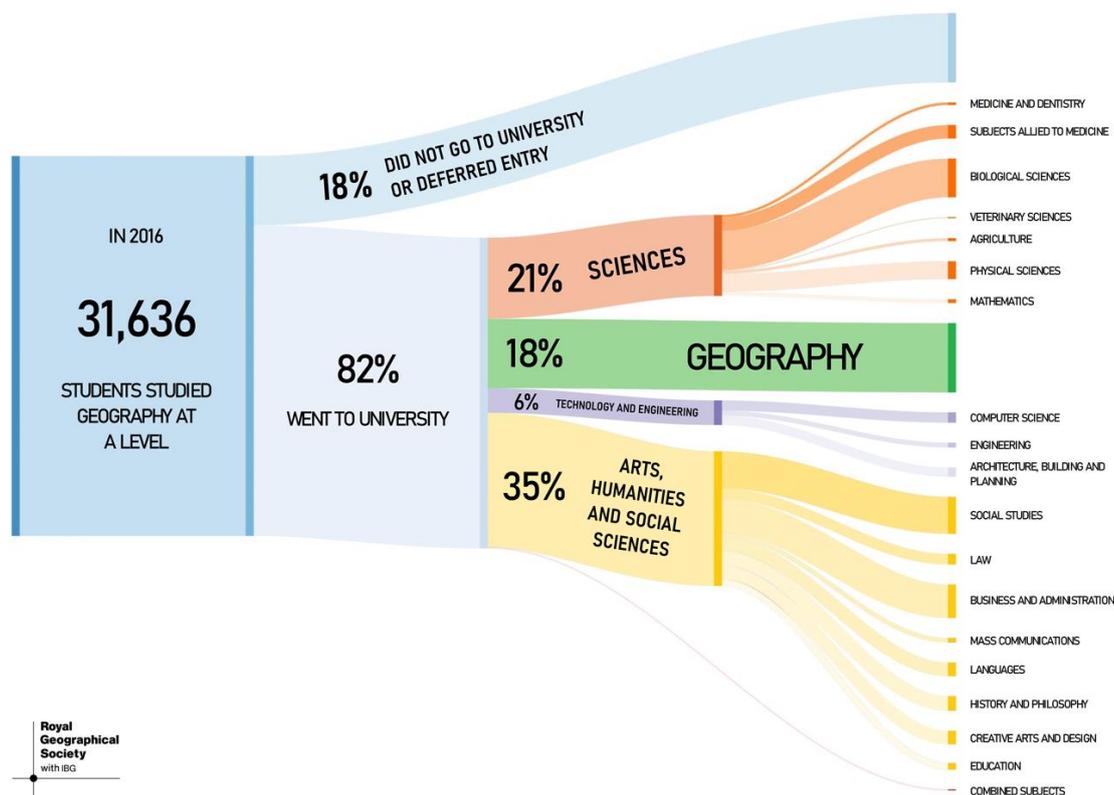
Do I need to be good at maths?

Students will need to be familiar with basic maths such as mean, median, mode, range and calculating percentages. Students will be taught some statistical analysis methods in order to help analyse data. Students are given very clear guidance for this element of the course. Students may find taking the Core Maths additional course useful to help them if they feel they need further support with their Maths.

Which other subjects does geography go well with?

Geography is considered both a humanity and a science and as such has a wide range of other subjects that complement it. Geography spans such a wide range of disciplines that it is difficult to find a subject that doesn't have some connection to it!

What do most people go on to do if they study geography at A-level?



Can I get in touch if I have any other questions?

You are more than welcome to contact Ms Richardson at crichardson@plymstockschool.org.uk