

Geography A Level – Year 13

Exam Board: Edexcel – Course Code: 9GEO

This A Level course will enable you to be inspired by your geographical understanding, to engage critically with real world issues and places, and to apply your geographical knowledge, theory and skills to the world around you. You will grow as independent thinkers and as informed and engaged citizens, who understand the role and importance of geography as one of the key disciplines relevant to understanding the world's changing peoples, places and environments.

Unit 3 – Physical Systems and Sustainability (Autumn Term)

Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity

Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security

Unit 4 - Human Systems and Geopolitics (Spring Term)

Topic 7: Superpowers

Topic 8A: Health, Human Rights and Intervention

The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity

Water plays a key role in supporting life on earth. The water cycle operates at a variety of spatial scales and also at short- and long-term timescales, from global to local. Physical processes control the circulation of water between the stores on land, in the oceans, in the cryosphere, and the atmosphere. Changes to the most important stores of water are a result of both physical and human processes. Water insecurity is becoming a global issue with serious consequences and there is a range of different approaches to managing water supply. Studying this topic will give you an insight into how the planet tries to regulate and replenish its water stores and how we are over-using this precious resource. Sustainability is at the core of solutions for the future.



The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security

A balanced carbon cycle is important in maintaining planetary health. The carbon cycle operates at a range of spatial scales and timescales, from seconds to millions of years. Physical processes control the movement of carbon between stores on land, the oceans and the atmosphere. Changes to the most important stores of carbon and carbon fluxes are a result of physical and human processes. Reliance on fossil fuels has caused significant changes to carbon stores and contributed to climate change resulting from anthropogenic carbon emissions. The water and carbon cycles and the role of feedbacks in and between the two cycles, provide a context for developing an understanding of climate change. Anthropogenic climate change poses a serious threat to the health of the planet. There is a range of adaptation and mitigation strategies that could be used, but for them to be successful they require global agreements as well as national actions.



Superpowers

A superpower is a nation with the ability to project its influence anywhere in the world and be a dominant global force. The term 'superpower' dates from the late 1940s when it was used to describe the three dominant world powers at the time: the USA, USSR and British Empire.

Superpowers can be developed by a number of characteristics. The pattern of dominance has changed over time. Superpowers and emerging superpowers have a very significant impact on the global economy, global politics and the environment. The spheres of influence between these powers are frequently contested, resulting in geopolitical implications.

In studying this topic, you will be answering questions such as:

- What are superpowers and how have they changed over time?
- What are the impacts of superpowers on the global economy, political system and the physical environment?
- What spheres of influence are contested by superpowers and what are the implications of this?
- Who are the BRIC countries?



Health, Human Rights and Intervention

Traditional definitions of development are based largely on economic measures but have been increasingly challenged by broader definitions based on environmental, social and political quality of life with many new measures used to record progress at all scales in human rights and human welfare. There are variations in the norms and laws of both national and global institutions that impact on decisions made at all scales, from local to global. These decisions lead to a wide range of geopolitical interventions via international and national policies, from development aid through to military campaigns. The impact of geopolitical interventions on both human health and wellbeing and human rights is variable and contested, with some groups appearing to benefit disproportionately, which can lead to increasing inequalities and injustice.



Examination details

At the end of your two-year A level course you will sit three examinations and submit your Individual Investigation coursework (NEA).

Paper 1 (Paper code: 9GE0/01)

Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes

30% of the qualification

105 marks

Content overview¹

- Area of study 1, Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards
- Area of study 1, Topic 2: Landscape Systems, Processes and Change – including optional sub-topics from which students choose **one** from two: *2A: Glaciated Landscapes and Change* or *2B: Coastal Landscapes and Change*
- Area of study 3, Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
- Area of study 3, Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security

Paper 2 (Paper code: 9GE0/02)

Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes

30% of the qualification

105 marks

Content overview¹

- Area of study 2, Topic 3: Globalisation
- Area of study 2, Topic 4: Shaping Places – including optional sub-topics from which students choose **one** from two: 4A Regenerating Places or 4B Diverse Places
- Area of study 4, Topic 7: Superpowers
- Area of study 4, Topic 8: Global Development and Connections – including optional sub-topics from which students choose **one** from two: 8A Health, Human Rights and Intervention or 8B Migration, Identity and Sovereignty

Paper 3 (*Paper code: 9GE0/03)

Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes

20% of the qualification

70 marks

Content overview

The specification contains three synoptic themes within the compulsory¹ content areas:

- Players
- Attitudes and actions
- Futures and uncertainties.

The synoptic investigation will be based on a geographical issue within a place-based context that links to the three synoptic themes and is rooted in two or more of the compulsory content areas.

Non-examination assessment:Independent Investigation (9GE0/04)

Non-examined assessment

20% of the qualification

70 marks

Content overview

- The student defines a question or issue for investigation, relating to the compulsory or optional content. The topic may relate to any aspect of geography contained within the specification
- The student's investigation will incorporate fieldwork data (collected individually or as part of a group) and own research and/or secondary data
- The fieldwork, which forms the focus and context of the individual investigation, may be either human, physical or integrated physical-human
- The investigation report will evidence independent analysis and evaluation of data, presentation of data findings and extended writing
- Students will be expected to show evidence that they have used both quantitative and qualitative data to support their independent investigation as appropriate to the particular environment and/or location.