

# RMGS

# GEOGRAPHY

## A LEVEL

### **What are the aims of the course?**

Geography is a diverse and engaging subject that covers issues relevant to our world today. At A Level, the emphasis is on the inter-relationships and interactions between and within the physical and human environments.

Geography A Level aims to ensure students

- develop a knowledge of locations, places, processes and environments, at all geographical scales from local to global
- develop an in-depth understanding of physical and human geography
- recognise and be able to analyse the complexity of people–environment interactions and appreciate how these underpin understanding of some of the key issues facing the world today
- become confident and competent in selecting, using and evaluating a range of quantitative and qualitative skills and approaches, (including observing, collecting and analysing geo-located data)
- understand the role of fieldwork as a tool to understand and generate new knowledge about the real world, and become skilled at planning, undertaking and evaluating fieldwork in appropriate situations
- develop as critical and reflective learners, able to articulate opinions, suggest relevant new ideas and provide evidenced argument in a range of situations.

### **What does it involve?**

Your A Level geography course will cover both the physical and human environments and the complex interaction 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. There is plenty of room for discussion and extended research which will help you become an independent thinker and learner. By the time you get to your exams, you will be able to show your understanding of a range of opinions and be able to illustrate your answers with case studies from local, national and international examples.

#### **Physical geography**

1. Water and carbon cycles
2. Hot desert systems and landscapes
3. Coastal systems and landscapes
4. Glacial systems and landscapes
5. Hazards
6. Ecosystems under stress

#### **Human geography**

7. Global systems and global governance
8. Changing places
9. Contemporary urban environments
10. Population and the environment
11. Resource security

You will learn in a wide variety of ways demonstrating **Geographical skills** such as using maps, GIS skills, data analysis, photos, videos, podcasts. You will be encouraged to frame your own questions using higher level thinking skills and showing your grasp of complex issues through report and essay writing. Students are encouraged to develop competence in a variety of practical skills to support their geographical knowledge and understanding by carrying out a **Geography fieldwork investigation** of their own choosing.

### ***How is it assessed?***

#### **Geography AQA A Level**

##### **Component 1: Physical Geography**

**Section A:** Water and carbon cycles

**Section B:** either Hot desert environments and their margins or Coastal systems and landscapes

**Section C:** either Hazards or Ecosystems under stress or Cold environments

##### **How it's assessed**

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes

120 marks which equates to 40% of the A-level

##### **Component 2: Human Geography**

**Section A:** Global systems and global governance (globalisation)

**Section B:** Changing places

**Section C:** either Contemporary urban environments or Population and the environment or Resource security

##### **How it's assessed**

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes

120 marks which equates to 40% of the A-level

##### **Component 3: Geographical investigation**

Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content. A minimum of **four days of fieldwork** must be completed.

##### **How it's assessed**

3,000 – 4,000 words

60 marks which equate to 20% of the A level, marked by teachers and moderated by the exam board

### ***Are there any specific entry requirements?***

You must have at least a grade B at GCSE Geography.

### ***Why is it a useful qualification?***

Geography combines well with almost all other AS and A level subjects. Geography is considered by universities as a facilitating subject. Taken with the science and Mathematics, it supports applications for almost any science based university course like Engineering, Psychology, Environmental Sciences, Oceanography and Geology. Taken with humanities like English, French, History or Economics, it equally supports a wide range of university course like Law, Business, Media, Politics and Philosophy. Skills of collecting, analysing and interpreting data, communicating findings and developing links are recognised by employers and universities as being of great value.

Geography opens up a wide range of career opportunities; increasingly major UK employers are placing it alongside Economics, Business Management, Science, Mathematics and Engineering as desirable for their subject specific graduate employees. In a globalised economy employers like their employees to know how the world works.