



IBS & IBH Level Geography

Within the Geography department we aim to establish a desire in students to want to know about our planet. Students are provided with key fundamental skills that enables them to critically evaluate their understanding of the diverse world they live in and how it is constantly changing. IB Geography is a dynamic subject firmly grounded in the real world, and focuses on the interactions between individuals, societies and physical processes in both time and space. It seeks to identify trends and patterns in these interactions. Students investigate the way in which people adapt and respond to change and evaluate actual and possible management strategies associated with such change. Geography takes advantage of its position to examine relevant concepts and ideas from a wide variety of disciplines, helping students develop life skills and have an appreciation of, and a respect for, alternative approaches, viewpoints and ideas.

Geography is the study of earth as the home of people – Yi-Fu Tuan

What will students learn?

The IB Geography programme has a global focus looking at interactions between the human and physical world. Students study a number of different topics and develop a wide range of geographical skills. The core themes look at the issues surrounding population, resources and development in the global society. Students also study two of the following optional themes:

- Freshwater – issues and conflicts
- Oceans and their coastal margins
- Extreme environments
- Hazards and Disasters – risk assessment and response
- Leisure, sport and tourism
- The geography of food and health
- Urban environments

In the Lower Sixth students study Population, resources and development alongside freshwater environments and food and health.

In addition, **Higher Level** Geography involves studying an extension theme on the global interactions, flows and exchanges arising from disparities. Global interactions encourages students to draw from a broad perspective viewing globalisation as a two-way and complex process whereby dominant economic commodities and conventions, cultural traits, social norms and global political frameworks may be adopted, adapted or resisted by local societies. Central to this analysis is an appreciation of power and its many forms.

In Lower Sixth Higher students study global interactions through power, places and networks.

How is it assessed?

Students are assessed through examinations and an internal assessment.

Standard Level:

Paper 1 40% of total. Exam 1hr 30mins.

Paper 2 35% of total. Exam 1hr 20 mins.

Higher Level:

Paper 1. 25% of total. Exam 1hr 30 mins.

Paper 2 35% of total. Exam 2hrs.

Paper 3. 20% of total. Exam 1 hr.

Internal Assessment

The course allows for students to research and investigate an area of their own choosing in completing an individual investigation. This Internal Assessment (IA) is worth 25% of the IB Standard level and 20% of the IB Higher level.

WHY STUDY THIS SUBJECT?

Geography is a broad and dynamic subject that is firmly grounded in the real world. It helps to explain the similarities and differences between spaces and places across a variety of scales and perspectives. Geography inspires students to examine key local, national and global issues appreciating our shared responsibility as citizens of an increasingly interconnected world. If you have a keen interest in the world around you and its ever-changing characteristics then this could be the subject for you.

Useful websites/Future Career Opportunities

Wider reading and keeping up to date with current geographical issues in the news is encouraged.

Useful websites include:

<http://www.geographyinthenews.rgs.org/>

<http://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/ask-the-expert-podcasts/>

As a degree subject, geography is highly respected by employers. Geography graduates have one of the highest rates of graduate employment, pursuing a wide range of career paths. It's often said that there is no such thing as a geography job; rather there are multiple jobs that geographers do. Further details on careers can be found on the Royal Geographical Society website: <https://www.rgs.org/geography/choose-geography/careers/employability/>

Examples include: Development Officer; Cartographer; GIS Specialist; Climatologist; Human Rights Officer; Disaster Response Coordinator; Environmental Manager.

Matriculation Requirements

IB Standard: In addition to the Sixth Form matriculation requirements, you will need to have at least a grade 5 or above in Geography GCSE to study IB Standard or the equivalent in another Humanities subject if you did not take Geography.

IB Higher: In addition to the Sixth Form matriculation requirements, you will need to have at least a grade 6 or above in Geography GCSE to study IB Higher.

In our changing world nothing changes more than geography – Pearl S. Buck