

A level Geography

Why study Geography?

- Geography is the study of people, place and environment and is key to understanding global issues such as climate change and sustainable development. It is one of the eight facilitating subjects that are preferred to gain access to the 'Russell Group' of top UK universities.
- You will develop knowledge of the population, economy, society and environment on a range of scales from local issues to global concerns over timescales of minutes to millennia giving you a unique multi-disciplinary understanding of the world.
- As an A level that covers both arts and science components, Geography gives you the chance to keep your options open. Geographers may pursue careers in sustainability, urban regeneration, energy supply, retail location and the management of hazards and climate change. They can also undertake careers in business, law, human rights, international relations or welfare. Geography is also a good choice for a future course in medicine or veterinary medicine developing skills of literacy, numeracy and problem solving.



Why study Geography at Solihull Sixth Form College?

- Staff in the Geography team love their subject and are highly qualified and experienced A Level teachers. They create a supportive environment in which students can learn and develop their knowledge, skills and understanding.
- We have a huge range of resources to help you to learn the subject – textbooks, fieldwork equipment, a dedicated 'rock room', journal subscriptions and online materials.
- Each year we invite guest lecturers to provide students with up-to-date case-studies and information and we have established links with local universities.

Case Study

Among the recent successful students to have taken this course is **Anya Adam**. She came to the College from Tudor Grange Academy and achieved all A and A* grades in Geography, English Literature and History. She has progressed to the University of Manchester to study Geography with a year abroad.



“Studying at the College helped me to prepare well for continuing my education at university. The high level of teaching and support provided me with confidence throughout my studies, and the understanding and approachable nature of the pastoral staff was excellent.”

- student Anya Adam



Course Outline

Component 1 – Changing Landscapes and Changing Places

- **Coasts** – 50% of the people on the planet live within 50km of the coast. This narrow zone where the land meets the sea exists in a state of dynamic equilibrium and you will investigate how this natural system develops through time and how people are changing the natural balance in the coastal system.
- **Places** – A place is a geographical space to which meaning has been given by people. Using examples from the UK you will investigate how and why urban and rural places are changing in the 21st Century.

Component 2 – Global Systems and Global Governance

- **Water and Carbon Cycles** – Flooding, drought and climate change are key global challenges in the 21st Century as are ocean acidification, melting ice and deforestation. The water and carbon cycles are vital to life on Earth.

• **Governance of the Oceans and Global Migration** – Global geopolitics is a key theme in this topic that investigates the ways in which the oceans allow the transfer of people, goods and information on a global scale. We will investigate global patterns of human migration and assess the impacts of this process.

Component 3 – Contemporary Themes in Geography

• **Tectonic Hazards** – Volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis are natural phenomena that are often both exciting and catastrophic. Using case study examples you will study the causes, consequences and management of these geological hazards.

• **Economic Growth of China** – Since 1978 China has played an increasingly important role in global economic systems. You will investigate the causes of the economic rise of China and evaluate the impacts of this on the local and global environment and society.

• **Ecosystems** – Climate change is putting pressure on the plants and animals that we share our planet with. You will investigate different ecosystems (the Arctic, coral reefs, rainforests) to investigate whether we can sustainably manage these places for future generations.

Component 4 – Independent Investigation (Fieldwork)

• You must undertake a minimum of 4 days of fieldwork as part of the A Level Geography course. There will be many opportunities for local fieldwork, as well as an optional residential field-trip.

• Your fieldwork report will comprise 20% of the marks awarded for your overall A level grade. This will be an individual investigation and the report will be between 3000-4000 words. It will be marked by your teachers and moderated by the exam board.

Assessment

Examination (80%) – Three exam papers with structured questions and essays.

Coursework (20%) – One fieldwork report (Independent Investigation).

Examining Board – Eduqas.

Special Entry Requirements

Students do not need to have studied GCSE Geography, but for those who have, grade 4 is essential. In addition, standard A level entry requirements apply - see www.solihullsf.ac.uk/courses/entry-requirements.

Prohibited Options

None.

What do our students go on to do?

Geography is one of the eight facilitating subjects that are helpful to gain entry into a Russell Group University. A Level Geography can be accepted as either a science or an arts subject at universities and students go on to study Geography, Earth Sciences, Environmental Science, International Development, Sustainable Development and a wide range of other courses at university. The skills developed throughout the course are transferable and helpful in a number of careers including urban planning, environmental, water resource and transport management and many IT roles requiring an understanding of GIS patterns.

Cost Implications

Fieldwork is a compulsory part of the A Level Geography course and the minimum requirement is for students to have undertaken 4 days of fieldwork investigation. Local fieldwork studies may be within walking distance of the college or can be accessed by public transport in order to minimise costs. Residential fieldwork is not compulsory, but enhances the learning opportunity of committed geographers. Fieldwork on the Dorset Coast costs approximately £225 for 3 days, and there is often an opportunity for an overseas fieldtrip.

Complementary Subjects or Enrichment Courses

Students typically have ambitions to study their Humanities subject(s) or a new Humanities subject such as Politics, Philosophy and Economics at University. Geography students also take part in the annual Model United Nations Conference and the Team Gambia expedition.

Examination Results

In the past three years, there has been great success for students on this course, as follows:

Year	Entry	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	A-E%
2019	69	0	7	17	19	18	7	1	98.6%
2020	43	1	3	14	12	10	3	0	100.0%
2021	53	4	6	16	15	11	1	0	100.0%

Contact

Address: Solihull Sixth Form College
Widney Manor Road, Solihull
West Midlands B91 3WR

Tel: 0121 704 2581
Email: admissions@solihullsf.ac.uk
Web: www.solihullsf.ac.uk