



GEOGRAPHY

Entry Requirement: GCSE Geography grade 6 or higher.

Examination Board: EDEXCEL (Specification A)

Geography at Parmiter's is taught to ensure young people are fully prepared with transferable skills, knowledge, and understanding to make sense of their world and to face the challenges that will shape our future societies and environments at the local, national and global scales. The course includes compulsory fieldtrips to reinforce learning from the classroom and allow for data collection for the assessed coursework task for Unit 4.

Course Content - Overview and Assessment

Unit 1: Physical Environment (course code: 9GEO/01)

Students will learn in more depth Tectonic Processes and Hazards; The Landscape Systems, Processes and Change; The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity; The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security and Climate Change Futures.

Assessment: Written examination: 2 hours, 30% of the qualification and marked out of 90 raw marks.

Unit 2: Human Environment (Course code: 9GEO/02)

Students will learn about Globalisation, Superpower Nations; Regenerating Places and Health, Human Rights and Intervention.

Assessment: Written examination: 2 hours, 30% of the qualification and marked out of 90 raw marks.

Unit 3: Synoptic Exam (Course code: 9GEO/03)

The specification contains three synoptic themes within the compulsory content areas: Players, Attitudes and actions; Futures and uncertainties and a 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.

Assessment

Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes, 20% of the qualification and marked out of 60 raw marks. A pre-release resource booklet will contain information about the geographical issue.

Unit 4: Coursework – Independent Investigation (9GEO/04)

- 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 during the 4 day fieldtrips in October) 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.

Assessment

The investigation report is internally assessed and externally moderated. The student will produce a written report of 3000–4000 words. It is worth 20% of the qualification and marked out of 60 raw marks.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Teaching in lessons enables students to participate in whole class, small group and individual activities through discussion, presentations, analysis, fieldwork and decision making exercises. It is important that A Level students formulate their own opinions and views on issues discussed and they are encouraged to undertake personal research outside of the classroom. Continuous practice of past paper questions and report writing help to prepare students for the examinations

Homework

The aim is for 2-3 pieces of homework to be set per week by each teacher. This work will consist of a combination of past paper exam questions, textbook activities, report writing and personal research tasks.

Complementary Subjects

Geography is a valuable subject and has the advantage of being compatible with virtually all other subjects. It combines well with Mathematics and science-based subjects and other humanities subjects such as History or Government and Politics, however, it is equally well suited alongside arts or language-based subjects or as a bridge between the arts-science divide.

Trips and Visits

The Geography Department strongly believes that fieldwork is a fundamental and enjoyable part of the subject and so we run two varied and interesting trips. Firstly, 4 compulsory day trips in October (approximately £50) of the Upper Sixth which supports preparation for the Unit 4 NEA and, secondly, an optional but very popular 5-day trip to the Alps in July (approximately £650) of the Lower Sixth to reinforce learning in Unit 1 and Unit 3.

Materials

The purchase of the Edexcel endorsed Year 1 and Year 2 A Level textbooks will be required. The cost of each textbook is approximately £25.

Key Features

The new specification introduced in 2016 offers units that allow a balance between student's own particular physical, human and/or environmental interests and key current geographical topics providing them with the knowledge and skills for further study in Higher Education or for employment.