



# A-Level Geography

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Criteria: Grade 6 in GCSE Geography or equivalent.

## Overview

### Physical Geography

- ▶ **Water and Carbon Cycle:** Focuses on the major stores of water and carbon near the Earth's surface and their cyclical relationships.
- ▶ **Coasts:** Examines coastal zones and how landscapes develop through the interaction of winds, waves, currents, and terrestrial/marine sediments.
- ▶ **Hazards:** Focuses on natural hazards caused by the lithosphere and atmosphere, their impacts on human populations, and management strategies.

### Human Geography

- ▶ **Changing Places:** Investigates how people engage with and experience places, the emotional and cultural qualities they attribute to them.
- ▶ **Global Governance:** Explores globalization, focusing on economic, political, and social changes driven by technological advancements.
- ▶ **Population and Resources:** Studies the relationship between physical geography, population health, economic development, and environmental impact.



## Assessment

### Component 1: Physical Geography Exam

- ▶ **Duration:** 2 hours 30 minutes
- ▶ **Weighting:** 40% of A-Level
- ▶ **Format:** includes multiple choice, structured short and extended questions, plus an essay.

### Component 2: Human Geography Exam

- ▶ **Duration:** 2 hours 30 minutes
- ▶ **Weighting:** 40% of A-Level
- ▶ **Format:** includes multiple choice, structured short and extended questions, plus an essay.

### Component 3: Geographical Investigation

- ▶ **Duration:** 2 hours 30 minutes
- ▶ **Weighting:** 20% of A-Level
- ▶ **Format:** a 3,000–4,000 word individual investigation (human or physical) that includes data collected in the field. This component requires a compulsory residential field trip.



## Super-curricular resources

### Websites:

- ▶ BBC Science & Environment
- ▶ Geographyrevision.co.uk
- ▶ National Geographic

### Magazines:

- ▶ New Internationalist
- ▶ The Economist
- ▶ New Scientist

**Model United Nations** for real-world experience on global governance and international issues.



## Reading List

### Books

#### Year 12 (Carbon and water unit):

- ▶ Powerdown by Richard Heinberg
- ▶ The Great Thirst by Norris Hundley
- ▶ Six Degrees by Mark Lynas
- ▶ Climate Wars by Gwynne Dyer

#### Year 12 Changing places unit

- ▶ The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck
- ▶ The Tortilla Curtain by T.C. Boyle
- ▶ Wall and Peace by Banksey

#### Year 13 Global Governance Unit

- ▶ The New Rulers of the World by John Pilger
- ▶ The Debt Boomerang by Susan George

#### Year 13 Hazards Unit

- ▶ There is No Such Thing as a Natural Disaster by Chester Hartman and Gregory D Squires
- ▶ Richter 10 by Arthur Clarke

### Articles

#### Year 13 Global Governance

- ▶ Transnational Corporations in the Global World Economic Environment by Marcel Kordos
- ▶ Antarctica by National Geographic

### Films/documentaries

- ▶ **The Impossible (2013):** A film about the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami, linking to the Hazards unit.
- ▶ **Slumming it (2010):** A documentary on life in Dharavi slums, connecting to the Contemporary Urban unit.
- ▶ **Slumdog Millionaire (2005):** Portrays life in Indian slums and their developmental challenges, linked to the Contemporary Urban unit.
- ▶ **San Andreas (2015) and Geostorm (2017):** Depict large-scale natural disasters, useful for the Hazards unit.
- ▶ **Erin Brockovich (2000):** Examines corporate environmental negligence, useful for the Global Governance unit.
- ▶ **An Inconvenient Truth (2006):** Focuses on global warming, relevant to the Water and Carbon unit.



## Career Progression

Geography graduates are among the most employable, with career options in diverse fields:

- ▶ **Law, Banking & Finance**
- ▶ **Environmental Agencies** (e.g., Environment Agency, Forestry Commission)
- ▶ **Marketing, Accountancy, Surveying, and Architecture**
- ▶ **Management and Consultancy Roles**

Other specialized careers include Urban Planning, Environmental Consultancy, and roles in NGOs or Development Agencies.