

Intent

‘Geography is a subject packed with excitement and dynamism that synthesises aspects of the world and helps us better understand its people, places and environments and the interactions between them.’ (GA,2014)

Here at Stepney Green we believe the study of geography is vital to making sense of the changing and dynamic world around us. Through a carefully planned programme of learning across the key stages, students are able to develop a growing understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes, the formation and use of landscapes and environments. The aim is to foster student’s curiosity about the world and think like a geographer.

At A Level, geography is divided into human and physical aspects. In physical geography, students will develop knowledge of tectonic hazards and coastal processes building on prior knowledge gained from KS3-4, as well as studying new concepts such as carbon and water. Students gain an understanding of how humans can interfere but all also manage the natural environment through the concept of sustainability.

At its heart, geography is a study of place; how human and physical processes shape identities. Our A Level students study a range of human geography topics offering a wide range of place examples at different scales. Locally; students study the regeneration of East London, assessing the need and success of this project. On a global scale; students consider global geo-politics; the rise of the USA as a superpower, it’s likelihood of holding that position and China’s growing influence on the world.

Throughout the course, students will develop a range of transferable skills such as numeracy skills, map skills, data presentation, research skills, interpreting and analysing data and more. Many of these skills are strengthened by a 5-day fieldtrip to Somerset where students carry out a range of physical (coastal) and human (regeneration) data collection/analysis methods.

Students will develop a holistic understanding of geography which supports progression to undergraduate level while developing skills and qualities which are viewed highly by Russell Group universities and employers.

Curriculum

A Level geography students study the Edexcel specification which covers a balance of human and physical geography across four core themes.

Core themes:

- Water and Carbon Cycles
- Landscape Systems
- Global Systems Global Governance
- Changing Place; Changing Places

Year 1 students will study two physical geography units (tectonics and coasts) and two human geography units (regeneration and globalisation)

Similarly, in year 2 there are two units for both physical (water and carbon) and human (superpowers and migration) geography.

There is a required fieldwork element for both year 1 and 2 geography students. In year 1 students must complete at least 2 days' fieldwork (one day of human and one of physical geography). While in year 2 there is a minimum requirement of 4 days' fieldwork in order to complete students independent enquiry.

Assessment

AS Level	
Area of Study 1: Dynamic Landscapes 50% of AS Level Course	Area of study 2: Dynamic People 50% of AS Level Course
1. Tectonic Plates and Hazards 2. Coastal Landscapes 1 day fieldwork (minimum)	3. Globalisation 4. Regenerating Places 1 day fieldwork (minimum)
Assessment Overview	
Paper 1: 50% of qualification Assessing topics 1 and 2, geographical skills and physical fieldwork 1 Synoptic 12 mark question 1hr 30min 80 Marks	Paper 2: 50% of qualification Assessing topics 3 and 4, geographical skills and human fieldwork 1 Synoptic 12 mark question 1hr 30min 80 Marks

A Level		
Year 1	Area of Study 1: Dynamic Landscapes 25% of A Level Course	Area of study 2: Dynamic People 25% of A Level Course
	1. Tectonic Plates and Hazards 2. Coastal Landscapes	3. Globalisation 4. Regenerating Places
Year 2	Area of Study 3: Physical Systems and Sustainability 25% of A Level Course	Area of Study 4: Human Systems and Geopolitics 25% of A Level Course
	5. The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity 6. The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security 7. Climate Change Futures	8. Superpowers 9. Global Development and Connections -Either: Health, Human Rights and Intervention OR Migration, Identity and Sovereignty

Assessment Overview

Paper 1: 30% of qualification Assessing topics 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 and geographical skills. 2hrs 90 Marks	Paper 2: 30% of qualification Assessing topics 3, 4, 8, 9 and geographical skills. 2hrs 90 Marks
Paper 3: 20% of qualification Synoptic Investigation of a Geographical Issue 1hr 45min 60 Marks	Coursework: 20% of qualification A Level Independent Investigation 60 Marks Internally Assessed and Externally Moderated Written Report of 3000-4000 words