

Geography



Geography at Northampton High is an exciting and relevant course, designed to inform the students of how our planet and societies work, and to help them appreciate the key issues facing us.

We begin our geographical journey with a detailed exploration of the British Isles in Year 7, before taking a more international theme in Year 8, considering contemporary issues such as climate change and the impacts of migration.

In Year 9 complexity is developed by

investigating global patterns, such as exposure to tectonic risks and inequalities within development.

Pupils in Year 7 head off to Shropshire for the Humanities residential with Geography visits to examine the impacts of tourism in the Carding Mill Valley and to Snowdonia to witness the impacts of glaciation on the landscape. At GCSE and A Level there are residential visits to Field Studies Council centres in Somerset and Shropshire to develop fieldwork skills.

Key Stage 3

At Key Stage 3, pupils embark on a course designed to equip them with a strong foundation of knowledge of geographical concepts and the complex interactions between people and our planet, as well as developing the analytical skills needed to succeed at GCSE. There are opportunities to study topics more practically, such as investigating inequalities in global development by taking part in the world trade game, or trying to escape the poverty line by playing the paper bag game.



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Key Stage 4

Topics covered in the GCSE Edexcel course include physical geography, such as the characteristics of UK landscapes, including the impacts of coastal processes to both shape distinctive landforms and to affect human activities, for example, the risk of coastal recession for communities. During their study of human geography the students look at contemporary issues facing society, including inequalities in development levels and maintaining energy security without compromising environmental sustainability. The course is intended to develop students' enquiry and analytical skills and includes a compulsory 3-day residential, where students conduct both an urban and coastal investigation.

Key Stage 5

At A Level, the Edexcel course includes studies of advanced concepts to develop a more holistic understanding of the relationships between different countries, and between people and the environment. In particular, we examine development through exploring inequalities in health and human rights between different countries and also explore why some countries are

more powerful than others. Our studies of physical geography focus on examining sustainability issues, for example considering the risks of water insecurity and the likely impacts of climate change. Students also produce an independent investigation on either a physical or human theme, based on their work during the residential. Many of our Sixth Form students go on to study Geography at university.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed Geography throughout my time at the High School, both for GCSE and A Level. It’s given me the opportunity to learn about the world around me and keep up to date with everyday issues I was not previously aware of. The teachers are very enthusiastic and find new and exciting ways to motivate us to further our understanding. It has enabled me to learn about environmental impacts that are occurring on both national and global levels”. Jo - Year 13



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