

Year 12– 13 Curriculum Rationale

OCR A Level Geography

A Level Geography helps students make sense of a rapidly changing world. Through the OCR specification, students develop a strong understanding of both human and physical geography, alongside valuable skills such as data analysis, critical thinking, problem-solving, and extended writing. The course encourages students to engage with real-world issues that affect societies, environments, and global decision-making.

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Year 12	<p>Power and Borders This unit explores how political power is organised and contested at different scales, from local communities to global superpowers. Students examine how borders are created, managed, and challenged, and how power shapes international relationships and conflicts.</p> <p>Through this module, students develop an understanding of global politics, migration, inequality, and sovereignty—issues frequently seen in the news. It helps them become informed, critical citizens who can evaluate complex geopolitical challenges and appreciate different perspectives.</p>	<p>Coastal Landscapes Coastal Landscapes focuses on the physical processes that shape coastlines, such as erosion, weathering, transportation, and deposition. Students study a range of coastal landforms and assess how coastlines are managed in response to natural processes and human pressures.</p> <p>This unit builds scientific understanding while also highlighting the challenges of balancing environmental protection, economic development, and community safety. It reinforces analytical skills and helps students understand how physical environments respond to both natural forces and human activity.</p>	<p>Changing Spaces, Making Places This module investigates how places change over time and why different places develop distinct identities. Students explore urban and rural change, economic shifts, regeneration, and the lived experiences of communities.</p> <p>By studying real examples, students learn how social, economic, and cultural factors influence people's sense of place. This unit develops research skills, independent thinking, and empathy, helping students better understand the challenges facing communities in the UK and beyond.</p>
Why	<p>Analyse real-world data and case studies Understand complex global and environmental issues.</p>	<p>Develop independent research and fieldwork skills Understand complex global and environmental issues.</p>	Construct well-reasoned arguments.
How can parents and carers help	<p>Books Prisoners of Geography – Tim Marshall Accessible and engaging overview of how geography influences global politics.</p> <p>The New Map – Daniel Yergin Explores power, energy, and geopolitics in the modern world (for confident readers).</p> <p>Articles & Online BBC News – World & Politics sections The Economist (selected articles)</p>	<p>Books Coasts – Michael Allaby Clear explanations of coastal processes and landforms.</p> <p>Introducing Physical Geography – Alan Strahler (selected chapters)</p> <p>Articles & Online BBC Bitesize – Coastal Processes and Management National Trust – Coast and environment pages</p>	<p>Books Divided: Why We're Living in an Age of Walls – Tim Marshall Explores place, identity, and inequality.</p> <p>The Spirit Level – Wilkinson & Pickett (selected chapters)</p> <p>Articles & Online The Guardian – Cities, Housing, and Inequality articles.</p>

	Council on Foreign Relations – background explainers.	UK Environment Agency – coastal management case studies.	Office for National Statistics (ONS) – UK regional data. Centre for Cities – urban change and regeneration research.
	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Year 13	<p>Changing Spaces, Making Places This module investigates how places change over time and why different places develop distinct identities. Students explore urban and rural change, economic shifts, regeneration, and the lived experiences of communities. By studying real examples, students learn how social, economic, and cultural factors influence people's sense of place. This unit develops research skills, independent thinking, and empathy, helping students better understand the challenges facing communities in the UK and beyond.</p>	<p>Hazardous Earth Hazardous Earth examines natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanoes, tropical storms, and wildfires. Students explore why these hazards occur, how their impacts vary across the world, and how societies prepare for and respond to extreme events. This unit encourages students to think critically about risk, resilience, and sustainability. It also highlights global inequalities, as the impacts of hazards often differ greatly between richer and poorer countries.</p>	Revision
Why	<p>Analyse real-world data and case studies Develop independent research and fieldwork skills Understand complex global and environmental issues.</p>	<p>Construct well-reasoned arguments Analyse real-world data and case studies.</p>	OCR A Level Geography provides excellent preparation for university courses and careers in fields such as environmental science, urban planning, international relations, economics, law, education, and public policy. More broadly, it equips students with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate and contribute thoughtfully to an increasingly interconnected world.
	<p>Books Divided: Why We're Living in an Age of Walls – Tim Marshall Explores place, identity, and inequality. The Spirit Level – Wilkinson & Pickett (selected chapters). Articles & Online The Guardian – Cities, Housing, and Inequality articles. Office for National Statistics (ONS) – UK regional data Centre for Cities – urban change and regeneration research.</p>	<p>Books Natural Hazards – Andrew Goudie Strong overview of tectonic and climatic hazards. Disasters – Peter Baxter (selected sections) Articles & Online USGS (United States Geological Survey) – earthquakes and volcanoes Met Office – tropical storms and extreme weather National Geographic – hazards and risk articles.</p>	<p>Curricular & Skills Reading How to Read a Map – Tim Bryars & Tom Harper The Power of Geographical Thinking – Danny Dorling. Royal Geographical Society (RGS) – student resources and podcasts.</p>