

ST MARY'S COLLEGE



INTRODUCTION

The changes to GCE from September 2008 mean that we will be offering the new Edexcel course.

Students will study two modules in the first year to reach AS level standard then complete the full A level by taking a further 2 modules in the second year.

AS LEVEL

Content

Unit 1 – Global Challenges

Two compulsory topics are studied:

Topic 1: World at Risk
Topic 2: Going Global

Unit 2 – Geographical

Investigations – students choose two topics from the four offered:

Topic 1: Extreme weather
Topic 2: Crowded Coasts

Human Topics

Topic 3: Unequal Spaces
Topic 4: Rebranding Places



Lake District Fieldtrip Residential 2009

How is the course delivered?

The course is based on the development of geographical skills and knowledge. There are 4 x 55 minute lessons per week with additional support time where necessary. Your work will involve making notes from lectures and videos, description and analysis of information presented in photographs, maps and diagrams, simple statistical analysis, decision making and investigative work, and ICT relating to GIS.

What skills and interests do I need?

You must show an interest in the world around you and how it functions. To be successful you need to be well organised, punctual and attend regularly. You must be willing to work hard to complete work set to an acceptable standard.

How does it build upon studies in Key Stage 4?

You will be studying some topics for the first time however others will be familiar to you. These will be studied at a greater depth and will probably involve different themes and case studies.

How is the course assessed?

Progress is assessed throughout the course by regular tests, homework and practice exam questions. External assessment consists of 2 examinations of 1.5 hours and 1 hour in length.

Unit 1 – 60% of AS marks

Unit 2 – 40% of AS marks

A2 LEVEL

Content

Unit 3 – Contested Planet

Many resources are finite, and rising consumption means that difficult decisions over the use of resources will have to be taken more frequently. There are six compulsory topics:

Topic 1: Energy Security

Topic 2: Water Conflicts

Topic 3: Biodiversity Under threat

Topic 4: Superpower Geographies

Topic 5: Bridging the development Gap

Topic 6: The Technological Fix?

Three of the six options will be studied – at least one from each section.

Unit 4 – Geographical Research

Options range from those with strong physical geography to focus, to those concerned more with environmental, social and cultural geographies. Students must select and study one of the following research options:

Option 1: Tectonic Activity and Hazards

Option 2: Cold Environments – Landscape and Change

Option 3: Life on the Margins – the Food Supply Problem

Option 4: The World of Cultural Diversity

Option 5: Pollution and Human Health at Risk

Option 6: Consuming the Rural Landscape



Entry Requirements

A pass in AS Geography (grade A to E)

How is the course assessed?

Progress is assessed throughout the course at AS level. There are 2 external examinations of 2½ and 1½ hours each. The marks gained at A2 are combined with the marks from AS to lead to the full A level qualification.

Unit 3 – 30% of A level marks

Unit 4 – 20% of A level marks



Progression routes

Most A level Geography students progress into higher education. As well as going on to study Geography and Environmental Science, recent leavers have obtained university places for subjects as varied as Accountancy, Computing, Medicine, Dentistry, Geology, Law and Psychology. An A level in Geography has proved to be very acceptable for entry to disciplines spanning both the sciences and humanities.

Further Information

For further information please contact Andrew Randle at St Mary's College.

Full specification can be found at

<http://www.edexcel.com/gce2008/geography/Pages/Overview.aspx>

NOTES:

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