



05 September 2017

Dear parent and student,

Welcome to AS/A-Level Geography

We are delighted to welcome your son/daughter to AS/A-Level Geography and hope that they will enjoy the course and be proud of their achievement in August. Please find below some important information about what they should expect over the coming year.

The Course

At The Ashcombe, we follow the Edexcel syllabus.

Pupils will study 4 units in Year 12:

- Tectonic Processes and Hazards
- Coastal Landscapes and Change
- Globalisation
- Shaping places: Diverse Places

This is then assessed by the following exams in May 2018:

Paper 1: Dynamic Landscapes. 90 marks (50% of the AS qualification) – this paper focuses on physical geography topics

Paper 2: Dynamic Places. 90 marks (50% of the AS qualification) – this paper focuses on human geography topics

Fieldwork

There will be two day-long fieldtrips when students will carry out a range of human and physical data collection techniques. They will be required to write up their investigation but, unlike at GCSE, this will not be submitted to the exam board. Instead, fieldwork will be assessed in the end of year exams.

Lessons

We expect pupils to attend and arrive punctually for all lessons, ensuring that they engage fully with all aspects of the course in order to reach their potential. They should make an effort to maintain high levels of personal organisation so that their notes are complete, detailed, and ready to revise from. As a minimum, they should be bringing to lessons their textbook, geography folder, paper, a pen and pencil. Whilst they can borrow other equipment, it could be helpful for them to have a ruler, highlighter, green pen, glue and scissors.

If students know that they are going to miss a lesson in advance, for example for a medical appointment, they should seek out their teacher prior to their absence to let them know and to ask for any work. It is the responsibility of students to catch up on incomplete or missing work in their own time, copying from a friend, using OneDrive or asking their teacher for resources.

Textbooks

Students will use textbooks in lessons and will be issued with log in details so that they can access the Oxford University Press title online via Kerboodle. There will also be a small number of a range of textbook titles available in the study centre for reference use to enable students to add breadth and depth to their understanding. In previous years, a number of students have chosen to purchase a different textbook to their online title for personal use, reselling it once they have completed the course. If your child wishes to do this, the title we recommend is:

Edexcel A-Level Geography Book 1 (Third Edition) by Sue Warn et al. Published by Hodder Education

OneDrive

Lesson materials will be uploaded to OneDrive so that students can complete notes they missed, use the resources for revision and consolidate their understanding following lessons. It is expected that students check OneDrive regularly for useful resources and links to wider reading.



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Independent Learning

At A-level, we expect Geographers to spend at least 4 hours per week on independent learning for Geography, including homework as well as wider reading and consolidation. Homework should be submitted promptly and students should contact their teachers in person or via email if they are having difficulties.

For much of Year 12, Geography students will be taught using an approach referred to as 'flipped learning', in tandem with a range of other techniques in order to provide a diverse experience for them. This approach reverses the traditional learning environment by delivering more basic skills of knowledge and note-making outside of the classroom and moving consolidation and skills-based activities, including those that may have traditionally been considered homework, into the classroom. In a flipped classroom, students prepare for lessons in advance, usually through making notes from some specific reading or research they have been asked to do, then apply this knowledge and understanding in the lesson to develop their Geographical and exam skills, where they can make use of the expertise of their teacher. This has proven very successful in the past but does require commitment from students. As always, homework is an integral part of learning as students who have not completed the preparatory work are simply unable to access consolidation or skills-based tasks and may have only sparse notes from which to revise. Therefore, if students have not completed preparation homework, we ask them to do this during the lesson time whilst the rest of the class develop their understanding and skills further through more interesting class activities.

It is imperative that students develop their understanding and geographical awareness through wider reading throughout the course, in order to add breadth and depth to their understanding, which will dramatically enhance exam responses. They develop a routine of reading or watching the news and following relevant stories as well as exploring articles online, reading relevant magazines such as 'Geographical' or watching documentaries on subjects related to AS Geography. There are also many relevant books and magazines in the Study Centre which support the course. Further to this, students will receive a separate letter inviting them to subscribe to Geography Review magazine through school, which is written specifically for A-Level Geographers.

Geography Clinic

Geography Clinic is held each Wednesday from 3.30 – 4.30pm in R23 where teachers will be available to help. Students are encouraged to come along to work on homework, catch up on missed work, do some revision or ask questions.

Revision Guide

Many students choose to purchase revision guides to assist with their learning throughout the course. Any title specific to the Edexcel syllabus for Year 1 is suitable and style is often down to the student's personal preference. Please note that while some titles are expensive, it is often possible to purchase them second-hand at reduced cost from outlets such as Amazon or eBay. Some suggestions are:

Hodder Student Guides:

- [Edexcel AS/A level Geography Student Guide 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards; Glaciated Landscapes and Change; Coastal Landscapes and Change](#)
- [Edexcel AS/A level Geography Student Guide 2: Globalisation; Regenerating Places; Diverse Places](#)

Hodder Workbooks:

- [Edexcel A level Geography Workbook 1](#)
- [Edexcel A level Geography Workbook 2](#)

Your child may also find the following website useful:

<http://www.alevelgeography.com/>

The department look forward to supporting your child to reach their potential. If you have any concerns or queries, please get in touch with your child's teacher directly (emails addressed to info@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk will be forwarded to them) or contact us in the same way.

Yours sincerely,

Miss C. Mulligan
Head of Geography