A Level Geography (OCR - H481)

Head of Department: Ms C Bramwell

90% A*-B in 2026

Year 12

Physical Systems (Unit 1) Glaciated Landscapes

- Factors affecting the landscape
- Landform development
- Influence of climate change
- Impact of human activity

Geographical Debate (Unit 3)

This is a second debate topic and is based on another contemporary topic

The Future of Food:

- Defining food security and assessing current trends
- Causes of food insecurity
- Globalisation of the food industry
- Impacts of food insecurity
- Opportunities and solutions

Human Interactions (Unit 2)

Changing Spaces; Making Places:

- Two contrasting places at a local scale
- How place is understood and represented
- Economic change and social inequality
- What contributes to creation of place

Geographical Debate (Unit 3): Disease Dilemas:

This topic allows debate on a number of features of disease e.g.:

- the role economic development plays in the world pattern of disease
- how weather hazards influence disease
- whether disease can be eradicated

Both written papers have a separate resource booklet and contain a mixture of short answer and extended response questions.

Year 13

Physical Systems (Unit 1) – Earth's Life Support Systems

Requiring the study of the following:

- The importance of water and carbon to life on earth
- Case studies of Tropical Rainforest and Arctic Tundra
- Changes over time
- Links and interdependence between the carbon & water cycles

Human Interactions (Unit 2) – Global Connections: Option B – Global Migration

- Dynamic flows of people
- International migration and socio-economic development
- Refugees
- Economic migrants
- Case studies

Option C – Human Rights

- What are human rights
- Patterns of human rights violations
- Gender inequalities & case study of women's rights
- Governance and human rights organisations

Independent Investigation (Unit 4)

In this extended study you independently research a topic from those already studied in class. You set the issue to be investigated and use skills, primary and secondary data to investigate the issue- it is worth 20% of the overall A level.

At the end of Year 13, you sit 3 written exams:

Unit 1 from Year 12 and 13 together with skills; it is 1 hour 30 minutes long and worth 22% of the total. Another tests Unit 2 from Year 12 and 13 together with skills and this too is 1 hour 30 minutes long and worth 22% of the total. The third paper is worth 36% of the total and is longer, at 2 hours 30 minutes. It tests knowledge and understanding of both Unit 3 debate topics. The remaining 20% comes from the independent investigation.

Fieldwork

This is integral to both Year 12 and Year 13 – with at least 4 days over the course.

OCR request that fieldwork is carried out for Units 1 and 2 so there will be an opportunity to carry out physical and human fieldwork; your independent investigation could be based in part on one of these fieldwork opportunities.

