



carmel
college

Inspiring minds.
Shaping futures.

GEOGRAPHY

COURSE GUIDE 2017

“Geography is a subject which holds the key to our future.”

MICHAEL PALIN

Geography

Exam Board PEARSON

What will the course involve?

Geography is an established subject, which emphasises a balanced understanding of both physical and human environments.

Your study of the subject will be based on two key elements: A '**People-Environment**' approach to Geography and an '**Enquiry**' approach to learning.

'**People-Environment Geography**' is based on the examination of the questions, issues and problems arising from the interaction of people with their varied environments.

The '**Enquiry**' approach to learning rests on the understanding that effective learning occurs when students are actively engaged in enquiry into key environmental questions, issues and problems. All units that you will study encourage you to evaluate sustainable development options for the future and to consider the part that you might play as a citizen and the contribution which you can make to a more sustainable use of the environment.

The world we live in is changing. Geography allows you to see why and how it is changing. It combines and enhances communication, literacy and numeracy, teamwork, analytical skills, plus cultural agility, spatial and environmental awareness,

"...making Geographers sought after for almost any profession". The Telegraph

Within Geography, you will study the following:

Dynamic Landscapes:

- **Tectonic Processes and Hazards:** you will study earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and secondary hazards such as tsunamis.
- **Landscape Systems, Processes and Change:** you will investigate **glaciated** or **coastal landscapes** and the changes they experience through both physical processes and human activity.

Dynamic Places:

- **Globalisation:** you will study globalisation and global interdependence as it continues to accelerate, resulting in changing opportunities for businesses and people.
- **Shaping Places:** you will investigate places that are **regenerating** or are **diverse** in structure, specifically looking at how such places vary both demographically and culturally with change driven by local, national and global processes.

Physical Systems and Sustainability:

Within this area of study, you will develop a detailed knowledge of the following key physical systems and an understanding of the challenges we face in managing their sustainability for future generations:

- **The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity:** Water plays a key role in supporting life on Earth.
- **The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security:** A balanced carbon cycle is important in maintaining planetary health.
- **Climate Change Futures:** Climate and climate change provide a context for developing an understanding of the links between the water and carbon cycles and the role of feedbacks within and between the two cycles.

Our students say...

I have found the past two years at Carmel to be extremely rewarding.

The Geography Department in particular have been extremely supportive and the Geography course is very interesting. Studying Geography allows me to gain knowledge on current, real world issues and has given me skills that can be applied to a range of careers. I really enjoyed the three day fieldwork trip to the South Lake District. Not only was this an enjoyable few days in the countryside, it also significantly helped me during my exams. Not many colleges offer such extensive fieldwork; this definitely gives Carmel students the edge, both in terms of practical skills and theory for the exam. The close support from the Geography tutors is definitely the department's key to success. Regular feedback and extra tutorials nearly every day mean that the guidance and expertise needed for the course are easily accessible in a friendly environment. After leaving Carmel I hope to study Physical Geography at the University of Leeds, looking towards a possible career in Outdoor Leadership.



Ben Heath
Wade Deacon

Studying:
Geography, Physics, Maths



Human Systems and Geopolitics:

- **Superpowers:** you will investigate how **Superpowers** can develop through a number of characteristics and how their pattern of dominance has changed over time.
- **Global Development and Connections:** you will study either -
Health, Human Rights and Intervention where traditional definitions of development are based largely on economic measures but have been increasingly challenged with both human health and human rights being seen as significant measures of the progress within a society; or
Migration, Identity and Sovereignty, recognising that Globalisation involves movements of capital, goods and people, resulting in unequal power relations which have tended to lead to unequal social and economic outcomes in the world.

Coursework: Independent Investigation

A Level Geography students undertake a **minimum of four days of fieldwork** and in this coursework component you are required to undertake an **Independent Investigation** that involves fieldwork, producing a written academic report of **3000 to 4000 words**.

Fieldwork will be carried out in relation to the physical and human geography studied. You will be expected to show evidence that you have used both quantitative and qualitative data to support your Independent Investigation as appropriate to the particular environment and/or location.

How will I be assessed?

The A Level Geography course consists of three externally examined papers and one coursework component, which will all be assessed in May/June of the second year of study. The course leads to a varied assessment and examination package, specifically designed to recognise your achievement and progress over the course. Throughout the course you will be assessed on a regular basis to enable both you and your Tutors to measure your progress and set targets for improvement. Your fieldwork and research skills will be assessed across the areas of study.

What is the department like?

You will be joining an established and well-organised department which will provide you with a wide range of resources and facilities to support your studies. The two dedicated Geography classrooms contain excellent resources ranging from textbooks, periodicals and journals to networked computers, laptops and tablets. Both classrooms are equipped with interactive white boards and multi-media projectors. Larger ICT suites are available close to the department but our most effective resources are the stimulating learning environments the department provides and the established field sites you will visit both at home and abroad.

What will this course prepare me for?

As an A Level Geography student, you will have access to a wide range of possible career and Higher Education opportunities. Many students, on completing A Level Geography, progress onto Higher Education courses in Geography or Environmental Science. In 2015, 86% of A Level Geography students progressed from Carmel to University, with 58% reading Geography or a Geography related subject. Increasing numbers of students are now studying degrees in Sustainable Development, Geographical Information Systems and Environmental Management.

You will be able to build on your Geography, and as many former students have done, move into specialist careers in development, ecosystems and environmental management, land and water processes, cartography and computing, population, settlement and industry as well as tourism and recreation. The list is endless!

Our students say...

Carmel has been a wonderful experience for me and I would encourage anyone to study here.

The teachers are incredibly supportive with your studies and always encourage you to do the best you can. I found that from the very first lesson, everyone was motivated and determined. Geography is my favourite subject because of how relevant the issues that we study are, and how passionate everyone in the department is about the subject. Fieldwork has been a great experience, developing and applying my understanding in the real world. Next year I hope to study a degree in Human Geography at the University of Sheffield, and get much more involved with international charity work during the summer and through my degree, ultimately following a career in 'Aid and International Development'. I would recommend Carmel College to anyone – it provides so many opportunities, support and advice.



Shannon Jones
Connah's Quay High School

Studying:
Geography, German, Media Studies



“More than ever we need the Geographer’s skills and foresight to help us learn about our planet – how we use it and how we abuse it.” Michael Palin



Geography students on the Sólheimajökull glacier walk, Iceland

What are the entry requirements for this course?

A **grade B** in **GCSE Geography** and a **grade 5** in **English Language**. If Geography is not studied, then a **grade 5** in **English Language** and a **grade B** in one other essay based subject is required.

Meet the Tutors

Kieron Vesey

Head of Geography, Head of Faculty: Science and Maths

Mary Robinson

Geography Subject Tutor, Degree Co-ordinator for Science and Engineering

More Information

Exam board: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/subjects/geography.html>

The Royal Geographical Society:
www.rgs.org

Calculate your Ecological Footprint:
<http://ecofoot.org/>



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What type of Geography will I study?

You will study 'People-Environment' Geography which looks at the interactions between people and their varied environments, and the questions, issues and problems which arise from these interactions. It is an environmental approach, which contains a balance between the physical and human environments.

What support will I receive?

The department takes pride in the level of support we can give you and a wide range of support will be available to you on the Geography course. A booking system is available for you to arrange individual tutorials on specific topics related to your studies. Group tutorials are also arranged to provide revision support prior to your exams and 'drop-in' tutorials are set up during the completion of assignments for example. So there is no need to lose sleep at night, all you have to do is drop into the department; your teachers will always be available to offer help and support.

In addition to academic and pastoral support, you will also have access to a wide range of resources and seminars related to careers in Geography throughout your course.

What other activities will I get involved in?

Enriching your studies will be an important part of your time with the department. Our strong links with The University of Liverpool, Manchester Metropolitan University and Hope University will give you the opportunity to attend lectures and conferences at these universities as well as presentations by guest speakers visiting Carmel's Geography Department.

An integral part of the course will be a memorable 3/4 day residential based at The Castle Head Field Centre, which provides a base for field investigations on the Lancashire coast, Cumbria and North Yorkshire. In conjunction with the Field Studies Council, you will conduct field investigations on coastal defences, beach sediment, sand dune systems, urban and rural regeneration, enabling you to develop a wide range of geographical skills in the field.

In the second year, students have also had the opportunity to take the Coyote Trail across the south-western states of America, visiting the Grand Canyon and Bryce Canyon National Parks as well as Lake Powell, Monument Valley and Los Angeles. In 2014, students spent six incredible days in Iceland. They visited Reykjavik and the surrounding landscape and landforms of this volcanically active zone; volcanoes, geysirs, glaciers and the Mid-Atlantic Ridge – a lifetime experience!

As a student in the Department you will also get the opportunity to take part in national competitions such as 'Earthwatch' and 'Latitude' which can give you the opportunity to be a part of international conservation expeditions.

How successful are Carmel's Geography students?

The emphasis on hard work, active learning and enjoyment is reflected in the achievements of our students:

	2014			2015			2016		
	A*-B	A*-C	A*-E	A*-B	A*-C	A*-E	A*-B	A*-C	A*-E
A2	45%	71%	100%	38%	66%	95%	44%	78%	96%
AS	28%	51%	92%	14%	38%	80%	37%	58%	87%