

General information:

A level Geography offers a range of transferable skills; subject knowledge that is relevant to many of the biggest challenges facing society and the environment today. Geography is always in the news: a greater understanding of other societies and cultures; an ability to collect, process, analyse and understand data and communicate it to a variety of audiences; strong analytical and research skills – including qualitative and quantitative skills developed in the classroom and in the field; teamwork, leadership and problem-solving skills. Within six months of graduating, more than 90% of geography students have found work or proceeded into further education, according to the UK's Higher Education Statistics Agency, making geography graduates the least likely to be unemployed.

Course content:

Paper 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards; Coastal Landscapes and Change; The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity; The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security – 30% - 2hr 15min

Paper 2: Globalisation; Regenerating Places; Superpowers; Migration, Identity and Sovereignty – 30% - 2hr 15min

Paper 3: Synoptic Investigation – 20% - 2hr 15min

Independent Investigation – 20%

How is the course taught and assessed?

The course is currently being taught by two teachers who teach both physical and human units. Assessment takes place in the form of both data-response and extended response questions. At A level, there are three exams to sit and an Independent Investigation to complete. The focus of the investigation is up to you – this is a real opportunity to pursue your interest in an aspect of the course that has caught your imagination.

Entry requirements:

In addition to the general entry requirements for BWS, a Grade 6 in Geography.

Results information:

Students achieved 87% A* - C grades in 2023.

Top Destinations for Students:

Students end up studying Geography and a range of other subjects at: Oxford; Cambridge; Durham; Bristol and Plymouth, for example.

Beyond the curriculum:

The Geography Department at Bishop's places a real emphasis on the use of the 'outdoor classroom.' Urban and rural fieldwork takes place in Boscombe and Exeter. There is also a three-day residential fieldwork in South Devon to study coastal processes and landforms. We also make full use of our proximity to Salisbury's CBD during lessons to investigate the impacts of socio-economic change for the Regenerating Places unit. There is also a very active Geography Society in the school which is organised by sixth-form geographers, who organise visiting speakers and various geographical activities for the younger students.