

International Baccalaureate Geography

@ Durham Sixth Form Centre

"You can travel the seas, poles and deserts and see nothing. To really understand the world you need to get under the skin of the people and places. In other words, learn about Geography. I cannot imagine a subject more relevant – we'd all be lost without it."

[Michael Palin]

Geography is a dynamic subject that is firmly grounded in the real world and focuses on the interactions between individuals, societies and the physical environment in both time and space. It seeks to identify trends and patterns in these interactions and examine the processes behind them. It also investigates the way that people adapt and respond to change and evaluates management strategies associated with such change.

[taken from the IB subject Guide]

Courses:

Standard Level, A3 – 150 hours

Higher Level, A3 – 240 hours

Overview:

Both HL & SL students will complete 4 compulsory units considering patterns and change. These include: populations in transition, disparities in wealth and development, patterns in environmental quality & sustainability and patterns in resource consumption. All students will also complete a geographical investigation based on a topic related to a module and complete a written report. A series of option modules are available: SL students must choose 2 of these and HL must complete all 3. Modules include: freshwater – issues & conflicts, hazards and disasters – risk assessment and response and urban environments. In addition, HL students must complete an extension unit on global interactions considering issues such as economic interactions & flows and sociocultural exchanges.

Assessment:

Two examinations must be taken by both HL & SL students. Paper 1 considers material from the core themes whilst Paper 2 focuses on issues explored through the option modules. All students must submit a written report based on fieldwork, which is internally assessed and externally moderated. HL students must also complete an essay from a choice of three as part of the extension paper.

Fieldwork:

All students must participate in fieldwork in order to complete the internal assessment. In addition, a range of opportunities will be provided to engage in fieldwork opportunities at a range of spatial scales so that students can observe the patterns, processes and interactions discussed throughout the course. The Geography Department actively supports fieldwork in the teaching and learning of Geography and currently offers opportunities to engage in visits to Iceland, Italy, York, London, Newcastle, Durham, Edinburgh and the Lake District.

