



Fettes College

GEOGRAPHY AT FETTES

RESULTS

The Geography Department is a dynamic and high-achieving one, with pupils achieving excellent results in 2009

- 75% A*/A at GCSE
- 89% A-C at AS Level
- 100% A-C at A Level
- 91% gaining 5-7 points at IB (average points 5.8)

STAFF

We have five subject specialists, three of whom have senior roles in the school and therefore teach part-time, mainly in the Senior School. Both full-time geographers teach across the full range of age and ability of students at Fettes.

The Department boasts a wealth of subject expertise and experience. We endeavour to share our passion for the subject as well as provide the support and encouragement to allow pupils become independent learners.

THIRD FORM

All pupils at Fettes study Geography in the Third Form.

- Tectonic and climatic hazards
- Geography in the News
- Geography of today (chosen from food, disease, water and war)
- Geography of Edinburgh
- Rivers
- Geology (including limestone and granite landscapes)
- Tourism
- Glaciation
- Field week

Geography in the News (taught for one period in one half of each term) aims to incorporate current geographical events into lessons. Additional topics covered in this section are chosen from sport, resources, climate change, 'Our carbon footprint', The Millennium Development Goals and migration.

The course aims to encourage pupils to develop:

- An awareness of the almost unparalleled everyday relevance of Geography by focussing on issues of current concern.
- An understanding of the overarching theme of Geography; that it is concerned with change through time and space.
- An interest in geographical study for students of all abilities and to develop the foundations for successful GCSE teaching.
- A knowledge and understanding of a range of places, environments, geographical patterns and processes.
- An appreciation and awareness of the interactions between humans and the natural world and gain an understanding of this delicate, dynamic relationship.

IGCSE (2011 syllabus)

- River environments (and human interaction)
- Settlement
- Coastal environments (and human interaction)
- Coursework (27.5% of course mark, 2000 words)
- Population dynamics
- Weather, climate and ecosystems
- Farming
- Industry
- Leisure and tourism
- Energy, resources and their management
- Plate tectonics

The course aims to encourage candidates to develop:

- a sense of place and an understanding of location (local, regional and global)
- an awareness of the characteristics, distribution and processes affecting the development of contrasting physical and human environments
- an understanding of the spatial effects of the way in which people interact with each other and with their environments
- a global understanding of different communities and cultures
- an awareness of the contrasting opportunities and constraints presented by different environments

In addition the course aims to:

- give pupils the opportunity to analyse, interpret and evaluate geographical information from various sources (maps, text, photos, diagrams, data, graphs)
- provide opportunities for pupils to develop a range of skills and techniques related to the collection, collation and communication of geographical data

Pupils sit two external exams, one biased towards knowledge and decision making (45% of course mark) and one biased towards skills and analysis (27.5% of course mark)

http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/middlesec/igcse/subject?assdef_id=859

OCR GEOGRAPHY A LEVEL

AS – Managing physical environments	50% AS, (25% A Level)	River environments Coastal environments Cold environments
AS – Managing change in human environments	50% AS, (25% A Level)	Growth of tourism The energy issue Managing urban change
A2 – Global issues	30% A Level	Environmental issues – earth hazards and climatic hazards. Development issues
A2 – Geographical skills	20% A Level	Geographical investigation skills and practical fieldwork.

- The course develops an awareness of the interactions within and between societies, economies and the environment. Students develop their understanding of the world and interpret the challenges facing humanity.
- AS involves data response and essay questions whereas A2 is entirely essay based.
- There is no fieldwork submitted. At A2 there is an exam which will test students' knowledge of fieldwork processes and techniques. In order to prepare for this, assorted fieldtrips are organised.

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/type/gce/hss/geography/index.html>

IB _ HIGHER & STANDARD LEVEL

Core	40% SL 25% HL	Populations in transition Disparities in wealth and development Patterns in environmental quality and sustainability Patterns in resource consumption
Options	35% SL 35% HL	Urban environments Extreme environments Hazards and disasters – risk assessment and response (HL only)
Coursework	25% SL 20% HL	Various fieldwork options 2500 words

- The HL and SL courses are quite similar. The differences are that Higher Level students study three options and a Global Interactions extension (worth 20%) whereas Standard Level students study two options.
- The course is extremely international in its outlook and uses a wide range of case studies (e.g. Burkina Faso, Morocco, USA, China and Russia). Students are strongly encouraged to reflect on their own knowledge and experiences to support their studies.
- The Core course is highly topical and focuses on current geopolitical and environmental issues. It encourages students to adopt a holistic attitude when discussing issues, conflicts and solutions.