A Level Geography

Notre Dame High School and Sixth Form

'Geography explains the past, illuminates the present and prepares us for the future. What could be more important than that?' (Michael Palin)

Why choose to study Geography?

There has never been a more important time to study geography. Geography is relevant, contemporary and interesting. Whatever is going on in the World – there is a geographical theme running through it and it is geographers that make sense of the issues and find the solutions. Geography encourages ways of seeing and thinking that make geographers eminently employable and ensures it has one of the highest graduate employment rates of any subject. It is broad, spanning the natural sciences to Geopolitics. It is practical, integrating fieldwork skills, teamwork, data analysis and it gives students a global outlook in an increasingly interdependent world…

Why Geography at Notre Dame High School?

Proven track record: We are very proud of our consistent high standards and excellent results : 2026 was our best yet with 93% of our students achieving A*-C grades and a record 48% achieving grades A or A*.

Supportive ethos and environment: As a school and a department we offer a range of personalised support and guidance for all students studying at NDHS.

Contemporary and exciting course: We have chosen to follow the OCR Geography A-Level course which covers a range of engaging and relevant issues which challenge and inspire our students.

Fieldwork opportunities: We complete our mandatory 4 day fieldwork on a residential trip to Blencathra in the Lake District and there is an optional trip to Iceland.



Come and join our **Notre Dame Geographical Society**: a group of passionate geographers keen to share their love of the subject with the wider school community.

Specification at a glance:

Component	Physical Systems	Human Interactions	Geographical Debates	Investigative Geography
Weighting	24%	24%	32%	20%
Time	1 hour 30 mins	1 hour 30 mins	2 hours 30 mins	35 hours
Marks	72	72	96	60
Key areas of Content	• Landscape Systems: Glaciation • Earth's Life Support Systems	• Changing Spaces; Making Places, • Global Connections Global Migration • Human Rights	• Climate Change • **Disease Dilemmas** • Exploring Oceans • Future of Food • **Hazardous Earth**	From any unit
	Skills/In content optionality	Skills/In content optionality	Teacher chooses any **2** of 5	
Question styles	Short answer, extended response, essay questions	Short answer, extended response, essay questions	Extended response, essay questions	Project / NEA

A Level Geography

Notre Dame High School and Sixth Form

Fieldwork and Geographical Skills:

Geographical skills are embedded in teaching and learning throughout the course. While much of this is delivered in the classroom, we run a 3-night, 4 day residential trip to Blencathra in the Lake District in June of Year 12. This gives students the opportunity to undertake a range of fieldwork techniques and approaches in preparation for the completion of their Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) as well as building teamwork skills.









Non-Examined Assessment (NEA):

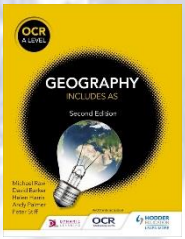
As part of the course and in addition to the formally examined components, students have to complete an independent investigation or NEA. This is an enquiry based study which can be based upon any element of the A-Level specification content. It is worth 20% of the overall A-Level grade and the word limit guidance on this is 4,000 words. Data is collected over the summer holidays between Years 12 and 13 with the deadline for hand in during the Autumn term.

Future Career Prospects linked to Geography: Geography is a very highly regarded subject as it covers so many important topics and issues. It is a ***facilitating*** subject to a wide range of degree courses and geographers from NDHS have gone on to study Law, Anthropology, Geology, Architecture, Town Planning, Marine Biology, Environmental Science, International Development, Diplomacy, Engineering, Earth Sciences, Politics, Medicine, International Tourism Management, Journalism, Physiotherapy and Green careers and sustainability are very much where the future is headed.

Reading:

OCR A-Level Geography

Third Edition



Authors: Raw, Barker, Harris, Palmer and Stiff
Publisher: Hodder Education
ISBN- 96781-4781-5870-3
All students should have their own copy at home.



Ghyll Scrambling, Lake District 2025





Opportunities to present at the Royal Geographical Society



Iceland: next trip 2027