Cornwallis Academy
Ambitions for All

SMILE
SUCCESSFUL | MOTIVATED | INSPIRED | LEARNING | EXCITED & ENGAGED

GEOGRAPHY | KEY STAGE 5

Pearson Edexcel A Level Geography (9GE0) | Years 12–13

Curriculum Intent

At Cornwallis Academy, our KS5 Geography curriculum develops informed, independent and critical geographers who can explain interactions between people, places and physical environments. All students are supported to progress from GCSE to demanding A-level concepts, geographical enquiry, evidence-based argument and reasoned judgement.

Year 12 – Building disciplinary foundations: Students study physical and human geography in parallel: Topic 1 Tectonic Processes and Hazards alongside Topic 3 Globalisation (Terms 1–2), then Topic 2B Coastal Landscapes and Change alongside Topic 4A Regenerating Places (Terms 3–4). Terms 5–6 introduce and develop the independent investigation (NEA), including enquiry design, geographical fieldwork, data presentation and analysis. Students move from GCSE explanations to critical evaluation, quantitative skills, complex case-study application and extended responses. Place-based examples include the Jurassic Coast, London Docklands and Folkestone.

Year 13 – Applying and synthesising knowledge: Students study Topic 5 The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity and Topic 7 Superpowers (Terms 1–2), followed by Topic 6 The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security and Topic 8B Migration, Identity and Sovereignty (Terms 3–4). The NEA is completed alongside taught content, with final terms devoted to consolidation, exam preparation and synoptic thinking. Students critically examine water and energy security, climate change, geopolitical influence, international migration, national identity and sovereignty.

Across both years, students explore geographical processes at different scales, compare contrasting places, consider stakeholder perspectives and develop a secure understanding of inequality, sustainability and global interdependence. They learn to question sources, interpret maps and statistics, use geographical terminology accurately and assess the strengths and limitations of competing explanations. The three Paper 3 synoptic themes—players; attitudes and actions; futures and uncertainties—are revisited throughout.

Curriculum progression: GCSE knowledge provides the starting point; Year 12 strengthens theoretical understanding and enquiry skills; Year 13 demands greater independence, sophisticated evaluation and synthesis across physical and human geography. The curriculum prepares students for higher education, employment and responsible global citizenship.

Assessment, Marking and Feedback

Assessment is continuous and purposeful. Teachers use retrieval practice, questioning, low-stakes quizzes, case-study tasks, data-response activities, extended writing and end-of-topic assessments to identify misconceptions and plan next steps. Early Year 12 assessments explicitly scaffold the transition from GCSE; support is progressively withdrawn as students become independent.

Students practise Edexcel-style questions, including shorter resource-based responses and 12- and 20-mark essays. Teaching explicitly develops AO1 geographical knowledge, AO2 application and analysis, and AO3 geographical skills, with particular emphasis on interpretation, judgement and sustained evaluation. Model answers, success criteria, examiners' reports and mark schemes support standardisation and self-assessment.

Feedback may be verbal, whole-class or written and identifies precise improvements in geographical accuracy, case-study evidence, chains of reasoning, command words and evaluative conclusions. Students respond through corrections, redrafting and improvement tasks. Performance information informs targeted academic intervention and revision.

Formal assessment follows Pearson Edexcel 9GE0: Paper 1 Physical Geography (30%, 105 marks, 2 hours 15 minutes); Paper 2 Human Geography (30%, 105 marks, 2 hours 15 minutes); Paper 3 Synoptic Investigation (20%,

70 marks, 2 hours 15 minutes); and the Independent Investigation/NEA (20%, 70 marks). The NEA is an individual enquiry involving fieldwork, independent analysis and evaluation, with supervision and authentication in accordance with Pearson requirements.

Homework

Independent study is integral to success at A level. Homework consolidates and extends classroom learning through targeted reading, case-study research, contemporary geographical news, geographical skills practice, retrieval, exam questions and essay planning. Students are expected to maintain organised notes, revisit prior topics and act on feedback.

In Year 12, homework increasingly builds research literacy, confidence with academic vocabulary, data handling and fieldwork preparation. In Year 13, it prioritises independent wider reading, synoptic connections, NEA milestones, timed examination practice and structured revision. Tasks are differentiated where appropriate and communicated through the school's usual systems; frequency and deadlines follow departmental expectations.

Links to National Curriculum / Syllabus Specifications

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Geography (9GE0), specification Issue 5 (attached).

Year 12: Topic 1 Tectonic Processes and Hazards; Topic 2B Coastal Landscapes and Change; Topic 3 Globalisation; Topic 4A Regenerating Places; fieldwork and Independent Investigation (9GE0/04).

Year 13: Topic 5 The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity; Topic 6 The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security; Topic 7 Superpowers; Topic 8B Migration, Identity and Sovereignty; synoptic Paper 3 and completion of the Independent Investigation.

Assessment components: 9GE0/01, 9GE0/02, 9GE0/03 and 9GE0/04. Geographical and fieldwork skills are embedded throughout, including cartographic, graphical, statistical, qualitative and quantitative methods.

Specification: https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/geography-2016.html

Exam Support & Revision Resources

Students have access to teacher resources, digital A-level textbook materials through Microsoft Teams, knowledge organisers, lesson notes, case-study summaries, exam question practice and feedback.

Recommended revision approaches include regular retrieval practice, spaced review, case-study evidence grids, annotated diagrams, statistical and resource interpretation, timed essays, synoptic planning and reflection on examiner feedback.

Pearson qualification and assessment materials: https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/geography-2016.html

Royal Geographical Society educational resources: https://www.rgs.org/schools

Tutor2u Geography revision: https://www.tutor2u.net/geography

Seneca Learning: https://senecalearning.com/

Students should use the specification, current examination guidance and teacher-selected resources to check topic coverage and assessment expectations.

Extracurricular and Enrichment Opportunities

Academic interventions: Targeted support in geographical skills, examination technique, essay structure, case-study knowledge and NEA progress, based on assessment evidence; additional revision and individual feedback where needed.

Educational trips and visits: Local fieldwork and geographical enquiry in Folkestone, including the town centre, Creative Quarter, Leas and Harbour Arm, support regeneration, place perception and NEA methods. Other fieldwork and visits may be arranged to develop coastal and urban understanding, subject to annual planning and approval.

Enrichment: Students are encouraged to attend relevant geography talks and webinars, engage with the Royal Geographical Society, follow current affairs, contribute to geography displays or discussions, and enter suitable geographical essay or research competitions where opportunities arise.

Assemblies and guest speakers: Geography-related themes such as climate change, sustainability, migration and global inequality can be supported through school events and visiting speakers where available. Specific clubs, speakers, competitions and visits are opportunities rather than confirmed annual provision.

Interested to know more?

To read:

• Royal Geographical Society – geography articles and educational resources: https://www.rgs.org/

• BBC News – Science & Environment: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science_and_environment

• Our World in Data – evidence and interactive datasets: https://ourworldindata.org/

To watch:

• BBC Earth – physical geography and environments: https://www.bbcearth.com/

• TED-Ed – geographical and environmental explainers: https://ed.ted.com/

• Royal Geographical Society lectures and videos: https://www.rgs.org/

To listen:

• BBC Radio 4 – Costing the Earth (archive and related environment programmes)

• BBC World Service – The Climate Question

• BBC Radio 4 – More or Less (statistics and evidence)

To visit:

• Folkestone town centre, Creative Quarter, Leas and Harbour Arm – changing places and regeneration

• Jurassic Coast (including Swanage and Lyme Regis) – coastal processes and management

• Royal Geographical Society, London – exhibitions, events and geography resources