



**Key Stage: 5**

**Subject: Geography**

**Aims of the subject:**

**Here at Ripley we believe 'Every day is a Geography day!'**

From an erupting volcano to our ever expanding population and the ongoing developments in Lancaster's infrastructure, Geography can be seen all around us. Our aim is to inspire students at Ripley to develop a love of Geography and recognise its importance in our daily lives. The topics covered aim to encourage pupils to not just thinking globally or nationally but recognise what is important locally as well. Geography has a key role to play in helping pupils to become informed and well-rounded global citizens who are confident to question and have a sense of place in the world in which they live.

Geography is taught by experienced, enthusiastic subject specialists. It allows pupils to describe, understand and comprehend the ever changing world in which we belong. This involves a study of places, patterns and processes and we look at the physical world and the interaction of humans on their environment.

At KS5, we not only aim to encourage pupils to develop an informed and balanced viewpoint of the world but to provide each student with the skills necessary for the world of work and higher education. Employers will welcome people with the following attributes: good communication skills, ability to work as a team, numeracy and literacy, problem solving, spatial awareness, environmental and social awareness. GEOGRAPHY PROVIDES THEM ALL!

**A-Level Examination Board: AQA**

**Assessment Overview:**

- **A Level Geography**
  - Component 1: Physical geography (40% of the A Level 2hr 30mins)
  - Component 2: Human geography (40% of the A Level 2hr 30mins)
  - Component 3: Independent Investigation (3000-4000 word individual investigation – 20% of the A Level)

Course	What will I study?	Assessment
Year 12	<p><b>Physical Geography</b>  Students will investigate a topic on the water and carbon cycles. This focuses on the major stores of water and carbon at or near the Earth's surface and the dynamic cyclical relationships associated with them. This unit will provide many of the basics that are required when studying other physical topics. A second topic on Coastal systems and landscapes will be taught. This will focus on coastal zones, which are dynamic environments in which landscapes develop by the interaction of winds, waves, currents and terrestrial and marine sediments.</p> <p><b>Human Geography</b>  Year 12 will start with a topic called Global systems and Governance. This focuses on globalisation – the economic, political and social changes associated with technological and other driving forces which have been a key feature of global economy and society in recent decades. The second topic of the year will be Changing Places. This section of the course focuses on people's engagement with places, their experience of them and the qualities they ascribe to them, all of which are of fundamental importance in our lives.</p> <p><b>Fieldwork &amp; skills</b>  Fieldwork is an important part of the course. Students will be given the opportunity to relate their learning to both a physical and human environment within their locality and beyond. This will provide a real world context for the content covered in class. A residential fieldtrip to Blencathra in the Lake District is undertaken to introduce the pupils to the fieldwork and geographical skills required. This fieldtrip will be used to collect the necessary data for the Independent Investigation.</p>	<p>Individual exam questions throughout  End of topic tests  Mock exams based on past papers questions</p>
Year 13	<p><b>Physical Geography</b>  Once pupils have completed their Independent Investigation, a topic on Hazards will be taught. This will focus on a range of hazards such as tectonic and storm hazards. Students will be expected to understand the processes involved and the impacts they have on humans.</p> <p><b>Human Geography</b></p>	<p>Individual exam questions throughout  End of topic tests  Mock exams based on past papers questions</p>

	<p>Pupils will investigate a topic titled Population and the environment. This section of the course aims to explore the relationships between physical geography and population numbers, population health and well-being, levels of economic development and the role and impact of the natural environment.</p> <p><b>Independent Investigation</b></p> <p>Students will complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.</p>	
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### **Enrichment opportunities**

In Year 12 we investigate Castle Ward within Lancaster as our near place study and compare this with Keswick as part of our far place study via local fieldwork and a residential fieldtrip to the Lake District. The residential fieldwork is also used to investigate physical geography themes such as the factors affecting the water cycle within the River Derwent catchment. This fieldwork will also provide the students with the opportunity to collect their primary data for their Independent Investigation.

### **Suggestions for wider reading**

We would encourage all our A Level students to keep up to date with current affairs by reading good quality newspapers and watching the news and current affairs programmes on a regular basis. In addition to this we would recommend that they visit and recognise as many diverse environments as possible and look for examples of what they are learning in class. An extensive reading list of geographical titles are available to borrow from the Sixth Form Library. The Sixth Form Library is also stocked with up to date texts and journal articles; these should be accessed regularly with relevant articles and case studies being incorporated into their wider reading and written work.