

The **GCE A-Level in Geography (Pearson Edexcel)** is a dynamic and interdisciplinary course that explores the interactions between human and physical environments. It equips students with critical thinking, data analysis, and problem-solving skills while fostering an understanding of global challenges such as climate change, urbanization, and sustainability.

Key Features

1. **Qualification Level:** A-Level (Level 3).
 2. **Assessment:**
 - Three written exams (80% of the qualification).
 - One independent investigation (20%).
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Content of Study

The course is divided into **four core areas**, providing a balanced understanding of physical and human geography, as well as their interconnections.

Area 1: Dynamic Landscapes

Focuses on physical geography and the processes shaping the Earth:

1. **Tectonic Processes and Hazards:**
 - Plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, and associated hazards.
 - Risk management and resilience.
 2. **Coastal Landscapes and Change:**
 - Coastal processes, landforms, and the impact of climate change.
 - Coastal management strategies.
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Area 2: Dynamic Places

Examines human geography and how societies interact with their environments:

1. **Globalisation:**
 - Economic, political, and cultural interconnections.
 - Impacts of globalisation on development and inequality.
 2. **Regenerating Places:**
 - Urban and rural regeneration.
 - Strategies for economic growth and social inclusion.
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Area 3: Physical Systems and Sustainability

Explores key environmental challenges and sustainable management:

1. **The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity:**
 - Hydrological processes, water insecurity, and management.
2. **The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security:**
 - Carbon cycle dynamics, energy resources, and climate change.
3. **Climate Change Futures:**

- The science of climate change and its socio-economic impacts.
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Area 4: Human Systems and Geopolitics

Focuses on global issues and their geopolitical implications:

1. Superpowers:

- The role of superpowers in the global economy, politics, and culture.
- Changing power dynamics and emerging superpowers.

2. Migration, Identity, and Sovereignty:

- Causes and impacts of migration.
 - Issues of national identity and challenges to sovereignty.
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Independent Investigation (Coursework)

Students undertake an independent investigation based on fieldwork:

1. Fieldwork Requirement:

- Minimum of four days of fieldwork across both human and physical geography.

2. Task:

- A 3,000–4,000-word report on a chosen geographical question or hypothesis.

3. Assessment:

- Internally assessed and externally moderated.
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Skills Developed

- **Critical Thinking:** Evaluating complex global issues.
 - **Research and Data Analysis:** Using qualitative and quantitative methods to analyze data.
 - **Problem-Solving:** Developing sustainable solutions to geographical challenges.
 - **Fieldwork Skills:** Collecting and analyzing data in real-world environments.
 - **Communication:** Presenting findings clearly and concisely.
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Assessment Overview

1. Paper 1: Physical Geography (30% of A-Level):

- Covers Areas 1 and 3.
- 2-hour written exam.

2. Paper 2: Human Geography (30% of A-Level):

- Covers Areas 2 and 4.
- 2-hour written exam.

3. Paper 3: Synoptic Themes (20% of A-Level):

- Examines interconnections between physical and human geography.
- 1 hour 45 minutes written exam.

4. Coursework: Independent Investigation (20%).

Career Pathways

This qualification provides a foundation for:

1. **Higher Education:** Degrees in geography, environmental science, urban planning, geology, or international development.
2. **Professional Training:** Careers in sustainability, conservation, urban planning, or environmental consultancy.
3. **Employment:** Roles in GIS analysis, disaster management, education, or policy advising.

Who Is It For?

- Students with an interest in global issues, the environment, and human-environment interactions.
- Those who enjoy research, fieldwork, and data analysis.
- Learners aiming for careers in geography-related fields or seeking transferable skills for diverse professions.