I. Examination board and course title:
A-level Geography
Edexcel
2. Course overview
Geography is a diverse and engaging subject that covers issues relevant to our world today. A level Geography offers an engaging and contemporary issues-based approach to studying geography, enabling students to explore and evaluate contemporary geographical questions and issues such as the consequences of globalisation, responses to hazards, water insecurity and climate change.
The content of the course gives students the opportunity to develop an in-depth understanding of physical and human geography, the complexity of people and environment questions and issues, and to become critical, reflective and independent learners. The transferable skills gained make students incredibly desirable for all universities.
The geographical content is framed by enquiry questions that encourage an investigative and evaluative approach to learning. Geographical skills and fieldwork will be embedded throughout the course.
The course encourages students to make links between different geographical themes, ideas and concepts through synoptic themes, threaded throughout the compulsory content.

“Geography is highly valued by universities as an A Level choice. The Russell Group report published in 2011 names geography as one of the eight facilitating subjects. This is a subject most likely to be required or preferred for entry to degree courses and choosing facilitating subjects will keep more options open to you at university.” (Royal Geographical Society)

The Guardian (2015) said of Geography that “it’s the must-have A-level.” In the same article:

“They also encourage ways of seeing and thinking that make geographers eminently employable, which is why, according to the latest information from the Higher Education Careers Services Unit, only 5.8% of geography graduates were still job-hunting six months after they graduated, against an average of 7.3%.”
What will I learn?
In year 1, you will cover the following topics:

1. Dynamic Landscapes
   a. Tectonic processes and hazards.
   b. Landscape systems, processes and change, studying either glaciated landscapes or coastal landscapes.
   c. 1 day of physical fieldwork.

2. Dynamic Places
   a. Globalisation.
   b. Shaping Places, studying either Regenerating Places or Diverse Places.
   c. 1 day of human fieldwork.

In year 2, you will also cover the following topics:

1. Physical systems and Sustainability
   a. The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity

2. Human Systems and Geopolitics
   a. Superpowers

3. Assessment outline
   There will be 3 exam papers and a piece of coursework for A Level:

   **Paper 1 (30% of A-Level)**
   Assessing the physical geography content (topics 1, 2, 5, 6) and geographical skills
   2 hours 15 minutes

   **Paper 2 (30% of A-Level)**
   Assessing the human geography content (topics 3, 4, 7, 8) and geographical skills
   2 hours 15 minutes
   105 marks

   **Paper 3 (20% of A-Level)**
   Synoptic investigation of a geographical issue
   2 hours 30 minutes (including 30 minutes of reading time)
   70 marks

   **Coursework (30% of A-Level)**
   A level Independent Investigation
   70 marks
   Internally assessed and externally moderated.
   Written report of 3000-4000 words
4. Entry requirements
A grade 4/5 in GCSE Geography and a grade 5 in English Language.

Extracurricular activity
Field trips are a compulsory element of the course.

5. Career pathways.
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