



Oxford Spires Academy

Department of Geography

KS3/4

At OSA our pupils will understand what it is to be a geographer. They will have a curiosity and fascination in finding out about the world and its people and will have developed an excellent knowledge of where places are and what they are like. Through a holistic understanding of the ways in which places are interdependent and interconnected, and how human and physical environments are interrelated they will develop a comprehensive understanding of the issues facing a diverse range of places and people, now and in the future.

Our pupils will have an extensive core of geographical knowledge and vocabulary, and will be able to communicate this in a variety of ways. They will have good spatial awareness, and be able to use a wide range of maps effectively to investigate places. Their experiences outside of the classroom will support their ability to carry out increasingly complex, independent geographical enquiry, ask their own relevant questions, make sense of geographical data, think critically about different views, and justify their own view in reaching conclusions.

Pupils will use concepts such as the interaction between physical and human processes, formation and use of landscapes and environments to make connections, draw contrasts, analyse trends and interpret a range of sources of geographical information using maps, diagrams, globes, aerial photographs and Geographical Information Systems (GIS)

Understanding of the methods of geographical enquiry in order to communicate geographical information in a variety of ways, including through maps, numerical and quantitative skills and writing at length and consolidation and extension of knowledge of the world's major countries and gaining an awareness of increasingly complex geographical systems in the world.

I loved competing against (and beating) schools like Harrow in the annual Geographical Association quiz” - Student comment

Exam board: Edexcel
Specification: Geography B

There will be three exams and each one will be one 1 hour and 30 minutes long.

Paper 1-Global Geographical Issues will assess topics including: Hazardous earth, development dynamics and the challenges of an urbanising world.

Paper 2 - UK Geographical Issues will assess topics including: The UK's evolving physical landscape, the UK's evolving human landscape and geographical investigations (fieldwork).

Paper 3 - People and Environment Issues is a decision-making assessment. The topics included in this include: People and the biosphere, forests under threat, consuming energy resources.



Coastal Landform Arch (above), Mt Erebus (below) - Geography Bake Off



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“I didn’t realise that we would hear erosion taking place with the sound of the pebbles rolling in the waves on the beach – that’s pretty cool. It’s geographical relaxation music!” - Student comment

“Staying at Nettlecombe Court was great, we were able to develop our use of GIS and try out new fieldwork methods. It’s also helped my understanding of ‘place’ geography and changed how I look at Oxford. I’m constantly asking questions about why and how when I go somewhere” - Student comment

KS5

“Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future” - Michael Palin,

There has never been a better or more important time to study A Level Geography. Dealing with vital issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation, social issues and natural hazards. Oxford Spires students enjoy the scope of the material they cover in geography, the insights it can provide into the world around us and the highly contemporary nature of the issues it tackles.

The A Level Geography course is split into human and physical geography even though geography is a very fluid subject with some of the issues overlapping. Human topics such as superpower geographies and globalisation generate debate and allow students to apply their knowledge to a worldwide context. Through the Geographical Association students attend lectures on topics such as ‘Waking the Giant: How Changing Climate Triggers Earthquakes, Tsunamis and Volcanoes.’ These are provided by a range of emeritus professors of geography and industry specialists.

