

Thinking about choosing to study Geography at Advanced level?

or

Already studying it and wondering what your next step might be?

This worksheet has been designed to help you consider how you can use what you learn from an Advanced level course in Geography in your future career planning.

+ What to study it with?

When choosing to study A level courses full time it is usual to study four subjects at AS level in the first year then three at A2 level in the second year. It is also possible to study some subjects via the vocationally related route (Applied A level double awards and BTEC Diplomas). The other subjects you choose to combine with Geography may have an influence upon what you can choose beyond Advanced level, so check out your choice. Although some Advanced level subjects require a good grade at GCSE as a foundation for study at the advanced level, others can be studied from scratch. It's a good idea to check this out before finalising your Advanced level course choices.

CAREER WARNING

* GEOGRAPHY

Studying any Advanced level course will give you two main things, knowledge about the content of the subject (observation of the natural and man-made world, relationships between people and their environments, the use and distribution of natural resources, the earth's surface, etc.) and skills in how to deal with that content. Although you may not need to remember the content for very much longer than your course, the skills you develop can be built on and used throughout the rest of your life.

MIX & MATCH +

Subjects that complement Geography include Economics, Business Studies, History and Sociology. It can be combined with Biology to provide entry into environmental careers and courses. It can also be complemented by Mathematics to open doors to a wide range of careers and courses requiring numerical and technical skills.

The higher education and employment scenes are continually changing due to social, economic and political pressures. This worksheet, therefore, is not a definitive guide to your future career but is more of a prompt to get you thinking about making connections between your choice of Advanced level courses and higher education and career opportunities.

<h1>Geography Skills</h1>		⊗ Ways in which you might learn these in the subject:
<i>Research skills:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> researching a topic by finding and choosing the most appropriate sources to use <input type="checkbox"/> analysing written, visual and statistical information and drawing out from it the key pieces of information needed <input type="checkbox"/> analysing problems through research, visual observation and recording	<input type="checkbox"/> learning about the earth's surface and its natural resources, the processes at work in the environment and the effect of man's activities <input type="checkbox"/> observing the natural and human made world through field trips, satellite and arial photographs, etc.
<i>Communication skills - written and visual:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> putting across clear and relevant information when writing about a subject <input type="checkbox"/> using visual materials to illustrate straightforward and complex matters <input type="checkbox"/> presenting observations and conclusions in reports	<input type="checkbox"/> writing essays and reports on experiments, field work and individual projects and studies <input type="checkbox"/> illustrating written materials with maps and field sketches
<i>Communication skills - verbal:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> taking part in discussions and making relevant contributions <input type="checkbox"/> listening and responding to others <input type="checkbox"/> giving presentations, using images where appropriate	<input type="checkbox"/> discussing such topics as overpopulation, conservation, pollution and its effects on the environment
<i>Numerical skills:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> collecting and recording data <input type="checkbox"/> estimating, measuring and calculating physical dimensions, distances and scales <input type="checkbox"/> reading, understanding and interpreting maps, diagrams, data and charts <input type="checkbox"/> calculating with fractions, percentages, ratios and formulae	<input type="checkbox"/> measuring and mapping distances, calculating topography and surveying land forms <input type="checkbox"/> using instruments to take weather readings, test soil, etc.
<i>Environmental awareness:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> observing the natural and man made world with sensitivity and perception <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrating an awareness of environmental issues and current world affairs <input type="checkbox"/> assessing the impact of human interaction with the environment	<input type="checkbox"/> keeping up to date with current world affairs <input type="checkbox"/> developing an appreciation of the environment and the strategies which can be used to protect and develop it in an environmentally friendly way

⊗ Ways in which you might use these in a job:

- analysing sites for the presence of water and minerals
- reading and interpreting environmental data, maps, charts and photographs to advise on construction sites, oil exploration, pollution control, etc.

- producing letters, reports, maps, charts and policy documents
- designing surveys and recording findings on issues such as insect infestations, weather patterns, the kinds of trees in forests, etc.

- working as part of a team
- advising people on issues such as sources of raw materials, routes and transportation methods, crops for different soils and climates
- giving guided tours and presentations

- using surveying instruments or remote sensing devices to measure land contours
- dealing with accounts, budgets and financial statements

- forecasting changes in the environment and their possible impact on people
- helping to plan out environments and implement environmental initiatives

geography

⊗ other skills

In addition to the specific skills you will develop whilst studying Geography at Advanced level, you may also develop a number of other skills which will be extremely important, whether you go on to higher education or into employment.

>Improving own learning and performance:

- dealing with complex subjects
- checking understanding of work set and seeking clarification if unsure
- agreeing and setting targets and planning action
- following a plan to meet targets and making revisions to the plan as necessary
- checking progress with an appropriate person
- identifying any support needed and using it effectively

>Working with others:

- planning activities with others
- identifying and agreeing targets with others and checking understanding
- identifying and confirming responsibilities within the group
- agreeing working arrangements with those involved

>Working with Information Technology:

- deciding what, when and whether to use information technology
- selecting and using appropriate technological hardware and software to process data, prepare and present information
- identifying support needed and using it effectively

Geography

CAREER c-o-n-n-e-c-t-i-o-n-s

There are a number of careers where having an Advanced level qualification in Geography, and all the skills that you develop through studying it, will be very useful. Careers related to Geography tend to bridge the divide between arts and sciences, reflecting the subject itself. You can find out more about these careers by looking up information in your careers library under the Connexions Resources Classification Index (CRCI) codes listed here.

CRCI code	Title
BC	Cartography including Mapmaking, Geological Drafting
BC	Surveying
BC	Land and Town Planning
TB	Meteorology
TB	Oceanography
TD	Environmental Science
W	Transport and Logistics
WA	Air Traffic Control
M	Leisure, Sport and Tourism
HB	Landscape Architecture
H	Environment, Animals and Plants

Although it is possible to enter some of these jobs after Advanced level studies, many of these areas recruit people with higher qualifications so you may need to seriously consider going on to higher education.

6 ways to check it out

Look at the 2 Skills pages.

- ① Put a cross against those skills you already have.
- ② Tick those skills you would like to gain or develop further.

- ③ Could you see yourself studying this subject at:

	Yes	No
Advanced level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Degree level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- ④ Look at the Career Connections section which lists careers related to Geography. Do any of these appeal to you? Why?

- ⑤ Look at the 'Thinking of doing a degree' section which lists degree programmes that are popular with Geography students. Tick those that appeal to you. Pick out your top 3 and explain why.

- ⑥ So what do you think? Are you interested in studying Geography further? Give 3 reasons for your answer:

1

2

3

Remember: Advanced level course grades can be converted into UCAS points which count towards admission to university so it is important to choose subjects which reflect your interests and abilities.

A = 120 points
B = 100 points
C = 80 points
D = 60 points
E = 40 points

Thinking of * doing a degree?

Degree level programmes normally require a minimum of 2 A2 levels, or the equivalent, plus supporting GCSE passes. There are a wide variety of courses where Advanced level Geography will be of direct relevance.

Degree programmes in Geography

A wide range of courses exist in universities and colleges. The emphasis of different courses will vary depending on whether it is taught in a science, social science or arts department within the university. Geography can be taken with a range of contrasting and complementary subjects as a combined or multi-disciplinary degree.

Geography related degree courses

The following courses may specify Advanced level as a requirement or as a useful subject:

- Countryside and Environmental Management
- Ecology & Conservation
- Environmental Studies
- Environmental Science
- Rural Environmental Studies
- Landscape Architecture
- Property & Surveying
- Surveying and Mapping Sciences
- Housing Studies
- Real Estate Management
- Town Planning
- Waste Management
- Urban Design
- Geology
- Rural Resource Management
- Transport Planning
- Logistics and Supply Chain Management
- Land Economy
- Architecture and Planning

Details of all the degrees available in these areas, and more, can be found on the University Central Admissions System website at wwwucas.com

There are many degrees where having an Advanced level qualification in Geography may not be of direct relevance but will be useful, however, so you need not be restricted by this list.

Geography FACTFILE

Opportunities for Graduates

Recent statistics show the following trends for graduates from Geography degrees:

- around 60% entered full time employment after completing their degrees
- a wide range of jobs were entered by these graduates, including marketing, sales, public relations, advertising, financial services, computing and IT
- significant numbers entered general management, administration, clerical and secretarial jobs
- nearly 26% of all those graduating entered some kind of further study or training – 10% of these going on to higher degrees in Geography and related areas.

...jobs ✖

These are some of the jobs that Geography graduates have gone into in recent years ...

- Estate Management
- Logistics Trainee
- Water Project Management
- Utilities Management Trainee
- Marketing Manager
- IT Manager
- Local Government Administrator
- Trainee Chartered Accountant
- Administrative Assistant
- Sales Assistant



need to find out more?

You might find these publications useful. Check to see if your Careers Library or local library have copies.

- > Degree Course Guide - Geography and Geographical Sciences
published by Trotman
- > Working with the Environment
distributed by Trotmans

Free information is available from the following organisations. If writing please send a stamped addressed envelope to cover postage:

- ▷ British Trust for Conservation Volunteers
Sedum House
Mallard Way
Potteric Carr
Doncaster DN4 8DB
01302 388 888
Email: information@btcv.org.uk
www.btcv.org.uk
- ▷ Civic Trust
Essex Hall
1 - 6 Essex Street
London WC2R 3HU
020 7539 7900
www.civictrust.org.uk
- ▷ Geological Society
Burlington House
Piccadilly
London W1J 0BG
020 7434 9944
Online contact form
www.geolsoc.org.uk
- ▷ Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
45 Southgate Street
Winchester SO23 9EH
01962 868626
Email: enquiries@ieem.net
www.ieem.net
- ▷ Natural Environment Research Council
Polaris House
North Star Avenue
Swindon SN2 1EU
01793 411500
www.nerc.ac.uk
- ▷ Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers
1 Kensington Gore
London SW7 2AR
020 7591 3000
www.rgs.org
- ▷ Royal Meteorological Society
104 Oxford Road
Reading RG1 7LL
0118 956 8500
www.rmets.org
- ▷ Royal Town Planning Institute
41 Botolph Lane
London EC3R 8DL
020 7929 9494
www.rtpi.org.uk