

A-level Geology

Below you will find some information regarding the A-Level Geology course. Please note that there are some entry requirements for this course; please speak to us if you have any queries or questions.

What does the course involve?

Geology is the study of 'Deep Time'. As we enter the Anthropocene – the proposed new geological epoch in which humanity is the primary agent of environmental and geological change – there has never been a more important time for us to cultivate a geologically informed society. Geologists look at the deep past of our planet in order to explore environmental changes and make predictions about Earth's future. A-level Geology equips students to understand the world of the past in order to appreciate planetary changes. As Robert Macfarlane writes in his book *Underland*, "we know so little of the world beneath our feet", yet "when viewed in deep time things come alive that seemed inert".

A-Level Geologists learn a deep appreciation for the geological timescale, and come to know a set of practical skills that help them to study the world beneath our feet. They also develop a deep and profound love of, and understanding, about rocks, the processes that form them, their role in shaping the earth we live on, and the many ways we have put them to use in society. The outline of the A-Level course is as follows:

Year One:

- Practical skills in geology
- Foundations in geology
- Global tectonics
- Interpreting the past

Year Two:

- Petrology and economic geology
- Geohazards
- Basin analysis

In addition, the course involves at least 4 days of fieldwork, and we anticipate that this will include a UK-based residential trip.

Where can Geology take you?

Geology can lead in to so many amazing careers, ranging from energy and engineering to mining and natural hazard management, and all the way through to careers working in surveying, environmental geology, contaminated land management and hydrogeology. Of course, it can also instil a love of fossil hunting in the eager student! Through close links with industries and membership of the British geological Society, our department keeps up to speed with the latest research and careers advice.

Quick course facts

You should have a minimum of five GCSEs graded at level 4 or above, including English and Mathematics, as well as grade 5-5 or higher in combined GCSE science or grade 6 or higher in GCSE Geography.

Geology is a great A-Level to take if you are interested in Geography. It also goes well with any science subjects.

This course is for those who are inquisitive and interested in the world around them, and wish to understand the world beneath their feet better.

Geology is a challenging scientific A-Level that can be extremely fulfilling!

