

**"Geography is the subject that holds the key to our future."**

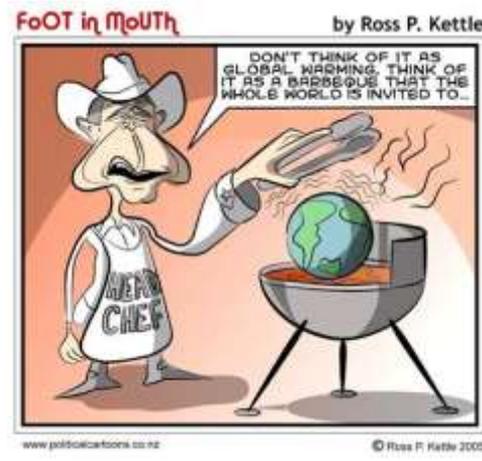
*Michael Palin*

- Wymondham High Sixth Form -

# **Guide to A Level Geography**



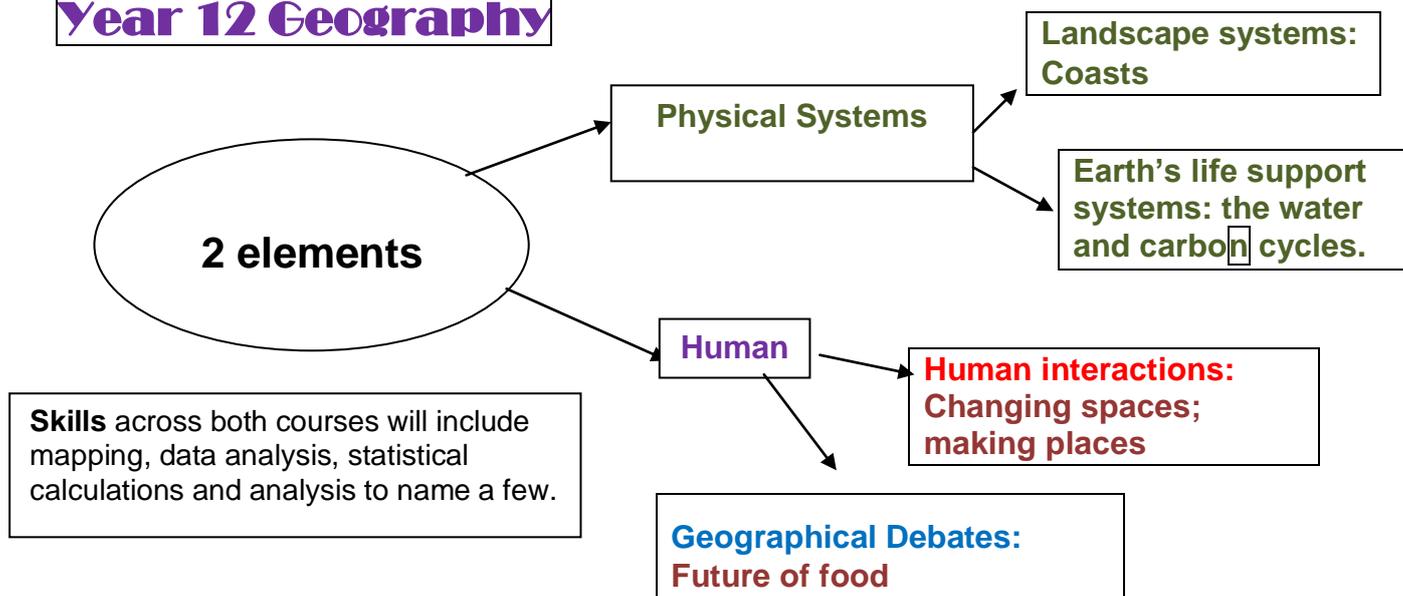
- **What will I study?**
- **How can I prepare for studying Geography at Wymondham High?**



**"Whether it is *endemics*, or *terrorism*, or *global warming*, knowing the geography is vitally important. Geography is *the* subject you ought to choose."** Michael Palin, President, Royal Geographical Society.

# The Course Structure

## Year 12 Geography



## Assessment

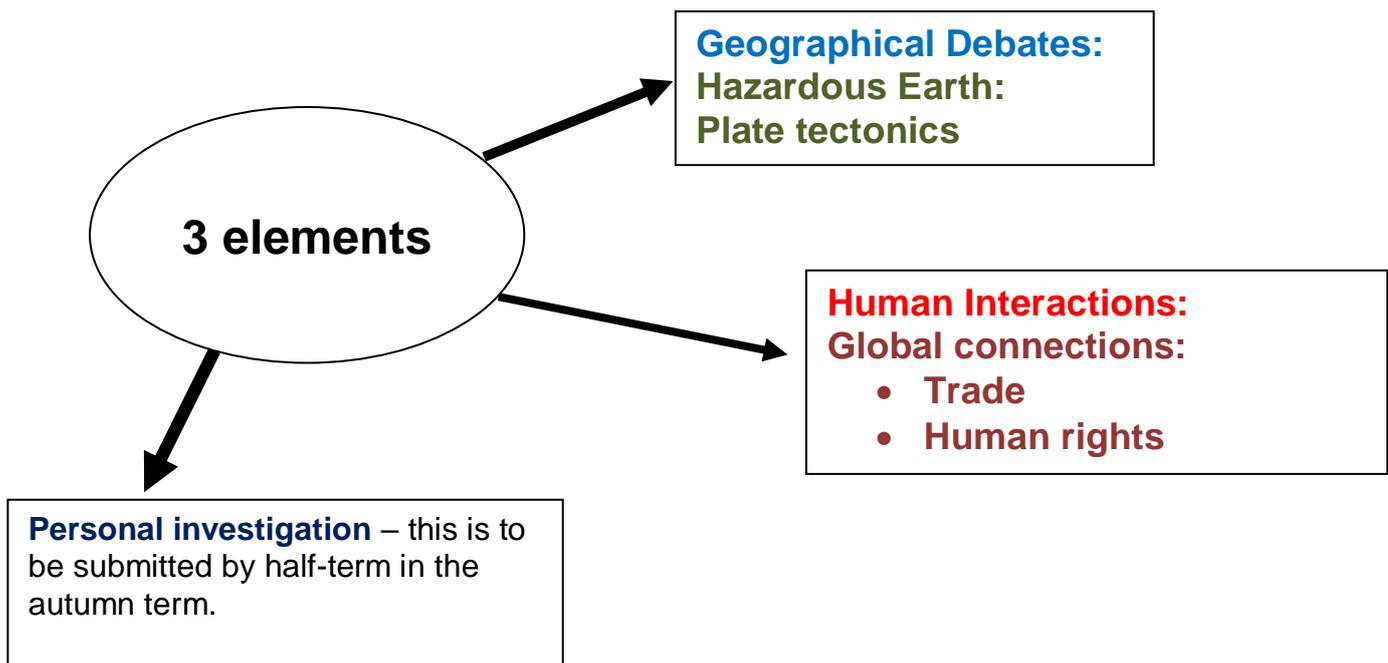
- **Two 1.5 hour internal exams:** one for the human course, one for the physical course. The two exam papers are each split into two sections.
  - **Section A:** Including data-response questions based on resources such as maps, graphs, photos and data; up to 16 marks. Candidates answer all questions. This will be on *coasts* for the physical paper and *changing spaces, making places* for the human paper.
  - **Section B:** Including data-response questions based on resources such as maps, graphs, photos and data; up to 16 marks. Candidates answer all questions. These will be on *life support systems* for the physical paper and *future of food* for the human paper.
  - Geographical skills / fieldwork skills will be incorporated into both the exam papers.
- There will be a range of *progress assessments* throughout the course including exam style questions, research, presentations, essays, and so on.

## Fieldwork



You will begin your personal investigation in Yr 12, to be completed in Yr 13. To ensure you are prepared for your investigation and to enhance your geographical skills for success in the examinations, we take you on a residential field trip in March of Yr 12, to the Cranedale Centre in Yorkshire. It is always a productive and enjoyable trip and it is pivotal in achieving your potential on the course. You can find out more about the Cranedale Centre by visiting their website [www.cranedale.com](http://www.cranedale.com)

# Yr 13 Geography



**You will be expected to be *highly organised* and to keep your work in good order. Your notes should be presented to a very high standard (to ensure they are useful revision resources!)**

## Assessment

**Two 1hr 30min papers (44%):**

- **Physical paper (22%) 66 marks:**
  - Sec A: Landscape systems: coasts
  - Sec B: Earth's life support systems (water and carbon cycles)
- **Human paper (22%): 66 marks**
  - Sec A: Changing spaces
  - Sec B: Global connections (Trade and human rights)

**One 2hr 30min paper (36%):**

- **Geographical debates (36%): 108 marks**  
Questions from both topics (*Future of Food* and *Hazardous Earth*) **and** a *synoptic* assessment:
  - Sec A: Data response.
  - Sec B: Extended responses.

**Investigation (20%): 60 marks**

## Homework:

You will receive homework every week from your geography teachers. This may be past paper questions, essays, research or revision tasks, for example.

# Be prepared for A Level Geography

Before you arrive get yourself ready for studying AS Geography by getting the following:

- **One leaver arch file** – kept at home, containing all Geography studies.
- **File dividers (10)** – For in the leaver arch file – dividing as follows:
  - **Human Environments:**
    - **Changing spaces, making places**
    - **Global connections: trade and human rights**
  - **Managing Physical Environments:**
    - **Coastal systems**
    - **Earth's life support systems**
  - **Global Debates**
    - **Future of food**
    - **Hazardous Earth**
  - **Fieldwork matters**
  - **Assessments**
    - **Human**
    - **Physical**
- **One daily folder** – for keeping recent notes, homework, etc. with appropriate dividers.
- **Pens (various colours), pencils, highlighters.**

## Reading around the subject:

From September you'll be expected to complete at least one hour of independent learning each week in addition to any homework that is set. Start as soon as possible. This may be:

- Listening to the news and reading the BBC news website on a daily basis.
- Exploring other news/ newspaper websites (eg Guardian Unlimited).
- Subscribing to a geographical magazine.
- Reading the Geographical Review magazine (copies in the library and the 6F study area).
- Watching relevant Geography programmes on TV or getting hold of some relevant DVDs (eg Mega Cities with Andrew Marr). Check out *youtube* for relevant clips too.
- Explore A level Geography study and revision websites (NB you'll be studying OCR A level Geography).
- Create a Glossary booklet.

## Tasks for the 'free' periods in your first two weeks:

**For Human Geography:** Create a PowerPoint presentation describing and contrasting two different types of UK settlements (for example, their land uses, functions, socio-economic profiles, their built and natural characteristics, etc). Give specific located examples for each. Begin your Human Geography Glossary booklet with relevant terms associated with the course.

**For Physical Geography:** Create a PowerPoint presentation: The pros and cons of the different coastal defences. Include full descriptions and explanations, images and specific located examples. (NB: You are expected to find out the financial cost of each). Begin your Physical Geography Glossary booklet with relevant terms associated with coastal defences.