

# IGCSE Geography



## Two-year Non-Intensive Course 2024-2026

### Programme Information

Geography is the study of the Earth. In this course we study some 'physical geography' - rivers, river landforms and the formation and management of natural hazards. We also study some 'human geography' - theories of development and how human communities are built and managed.

In addition to the traditional stock of maps and graphs there's a range of different disciplines involved. It includes elements of natural sciences, history, maths, or even philosophy. Everyone comes at it from a slightly different angle and gives their own unique perspective on it. Lessons are a mixture of lecture and discussion and are designed to engage students to participate as much as possible.

# About the non-intensive course

- This two-year non-intensive course is designed for younger students, those managing other commitments or those who would simply like to take a slower approach to completing the Edexcel geography IGCSE
  - Full syllabus taught over the two-year course.
    - Lessons are for one hour, once per week.
      - Homework every two weeks.
  - This course follows UK term times with no classes during half-terms or Winter/Summer breaks.
    - All classes are recorded and stored online.
  - Exam skills and tests throughout leading to full mock exams.

# Course details

<b>Course length:</b>	Two year course following UK term times. Year 1: September 2024 - July 2025 inclusive Year 2: September 2025 - May 2026 inclusive
<b>Lesson time:</b>	Thursdays 4pm-5pm (UK time)
<b>Start Date:</b>	Thursday 5th September 2024
<b>Course price:</b>	£25 per month (£275 for year one) (£225 for year two)
<b>Class size:</b>	Maximum 12 students
<b>Qualification type:</b>	International GCSE (IGCSE)
<b>Exam board:</b>	EdExcel
<b>Course code:</b>	4GE1
<b>Assessment:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 x 1 hour 10 min paper (Physical Geography)</li><li>• 1 x 1 hour 45 paper (Human Geography)</li></ul>

# Your tutor

- I'm Damian and I teach all the classes at Earthlings Learning.
- I began my career in education teaching English as a foreign language, where I taught students of all ages and abilities for ten years in various different countries in Asia and Europe.
- As a life-long nature lover I combined my passions by completing an MSc in Environmental Management in 2018 and started off Earthlings in 2021 to help bring this knowledge and enthusiasm to other people who want to learn about it.
- I'm an amateur ecologist and general nature nerd, a member of the British Ecological Society and participate when I can in various awesome local nature-related projects.
- I enjoy all sorts of weird and wacky natural things which I try to bring into the classroom with an informal, enthusiastic style. This often involves tangents for interesting and obscure natural facts and creatures. The more students bring along the more we all learn!



# General Course Information

All lessons are held online via Zoom.

This course is designed as a complete programme for students to sit the IGCSE Geography exam but also works for those just wanting to learn more about the planet or prepare for an exam at a later date.

Homework is given every other lesson. While homework isn't mandatory but it's really important for consolidating knowledge and helping me assess progress. Failure to complete homework may result in a lower grade.

There are a range of partial and full mock exams throughout the course, with work on exam skills including work with graphs and answering essay-style questions

Special Education Needs are more than welcome! We're all different and have different learning styles. Having ADHD myself I understand some of the challenges this can create!

**CONTENT WARNING** - As a GCSE this course is designed for students aged 14 and over. Younger students are welcome but there is some mature content in this course. We look at natural disasters and environmental issues which involve some death and destruction. When studying Economics and Urban environments we must deal with some inequalities and exploitation. We will attempt to approach these topics in a fairly lighthearted and impartial manner but sensitive students should be aware of this.

## Modules of study - unit breakdown

Please note that there are multiple options for study in the IGCSE Geography exam. In line with other geography tutors we do not study all these possible options, but focus on those we intend to take during exam to maximise our chance of success!

These are:

### Physical geography

#### **Unit 1: River Environments**

The Earth's hydrological cycle, the physical processes and features of rivers and the importance of water for humans and how we get it.

#### **Unit 3: Hazardous Environments**

Explosions! We focus on three types of hazard - earthquakes, volcanoes and tropical storms. How they occur, their effects and how (if at all) you can deal with them!

### Human geography & global issues

#### **Unit 4: Economic activity and energy**

Theories about how countries develop, different sectors of employment, the need for energy and where we get it from.

#### **Unit 6: Urban Environments**

Concrete jungles! The rise of the city, the problems with urban environments and how to make them more sustainable.

#### **Unit 7: Fragile Environments**

How humans can influence the natural systems around them.  
Three major issues: climate change, deforestation and desertification. What are they? How do they happen and how do we deal with them?

# Fieldwork

- Fieldwork skills and practice are part of the assessment of the Edexcel IGCSE Geography syllabus
- This involves practical fieldwork in River and Urban Environments and is reflected in a short section in each of the two papers.
- This includes looking at experimental methodology, sampling techniques, conducting risk assessments and drawing conclusions from evidence.
- With rivers, this involves things like measuring depth and flow. With urban environments this involves traffic and environmental quality surveys.
- There will be an organised fieldtrip to facilitate this in the UK, but given the widespread nature of our students attending this won't always be possible.
- We'll therefore also be looking at the fieldwork theoretically to allow this to be done independently in your local area, wherever you are in the world!

# Further information

## Required skills

- This GCSE requires an interest in the world around us: its people and physical processes.
- No existing knowledge of geography or the sciences is required however some maths and English skills are extremely helpful. An enquiring mind is the most important thing!

## Required equipment

- Students must have access to a camera and mic, even if they choose not to use them regularly and a printer to print off homework and exam papers.
- All students must have a way of submitting completed homework. Full guidance on formatting and submitting homework can be found in the “Homework guidance” doc.
- No further equipment is required: although calculators can be used in the final exam.

## Required textbook

- There is one required textbook for this course:

**Edexcel International GCSE (9-1) Geography Student Book (ISBN: 9780435184834)**

## Additional study

- Attending lessons and completing homework is sufficient to pass the course.
- Additional study is extremely important for retaining knowledge and attaining higher grades. Approximately one hour’s additional study per week is advised.
  - This course benefits from an awareness of news and public affairs.

## How parents can help

- Please be ready to encourage your child to keep ordered notes and files.
- As I can’t enforce homework and it is difficult to track students’ progress without receiving this, parents are advised to monitor completion of homework as much they feel necessary depending on their child’s learning style and willingness.
  - Getting them to explain processes and theories to you can be really helpful.
- As geography is the study of the Earth following news and taking opportunities to see natural processes in action is helpful and also provide a great excuse for a day out!

*If you have any other questions please contact Damian at: [earthlings.learning@protonmail.com](mailto:earthlings.learning@protonmail.com)*