

## Geology

### Entrance requirements:

Students considering Geology as an A Level subject **must** have both of the following:

- Grade 'B' in Mathematics
- Grade 'B' in Science subjects

A-Level Geology is available to all; **no previous knowledge of Geology is required**. We teach the WJEC Geology course.

A-Level Geology is a **linear course** with all the exams taken at the end of A2 and is often taken by students as a fourth subject. However, students opting to study **Geology as an AS course only** can sit an exam at the end of AS and gain accreditation. The AS course content is the same for those continuing with A2.

AS level Geology is designed as "stand-alone" science subject suitable for students who want to broaden their base in science but it is equally useful to those studying arts and humanities who would like an element of science.

### Why study Geology?

Geology will broaden their field of study and provide students with a useful insight into the dynamic world in which they live! Some other courses at university may require an input from Geology, namely the Sciences, Engineering, Geography, Geophysics and Archaeology.

The Geology Department is one of the best in Northern Ireland and the U.K. In recent years pupils taking Geology at A-Level have been awarded top place in N. Ireland and within the top 10 in the U.K.

### AS Course structure/topics studied:

- Elements, minerals and rocks
- Surface and internal processes of the rock cycle
- Time and change
- Earth structure and global tectonics

Those taking AS Geology **only** will be examined in summer of the year of award. Those completing the A-Level Geology course will sit exams at the end of YR 14 which will examine the content covered in YR13.

**AS Scheme of Assessment:** 2 written papers, sat in summer of the awarding year.

Paper	Name	Length of paper	Weighting
1	<b>Geological Enquiries</b>	1hr 30 mins	40
	<b>Content of paper:</b> This written paper assesses the geological skills acquired through an investigation of the geology of an area shown on an accompanying simplified geological map.		
2	<b>Foundation Geology</b>	1hr 30 mins	60
	<b>Content of paper:</b> This written paper assesses all of the AS Geology content.		

**These 2 papers are for the AS Geology qualification alone and are given NO CREDIT FOR THE A-LEVEL QUALIFICATION.**

## A-Level Geology:

Students completing the Geology at A-Level will study 3 modules (which comprise of many topics) over the course of 2 years.

### Modules:

- Fundamentals of Geology (covered in YR13)
- Interpreting the Geological Record (YR 14)
- Geological Themes (YR14)

### Fieldwork:

Students must take a minimum of **2 days in the field at AS and 4 days at A2** in order to develop field observation and practical skills. These skills are internally assessed, signed off and a record of accomplishment sent to the exam board before students are awarded their AS/A Level. There is no controlled assessment produced during fieldwork.

Fieldwork will take place in various coastal exposures in Northern Ireland and Donegal, visits to both working and abandoned mines and quarries.

At A-Level Geology there are **3 written papers** to complete in June of the awarding year which will test knowledge and understanding of the content covered during the 2 years of study.

Paper	Name	Length of paper	Weighting
1	<b>Geological Investigations</b>	2hrs 15 mins	35
	<b>Content of paper:</b> This paper assesses content covered in Fundamentals of Geology (YR13 work) and Interpreting the Geological Record (YR14 work).		
2	<b>Geological Principals and Processes</b>	1hr 45 mins	30
	<b>Content of paper:</b> This paper assesses content covered in Fundamentals of Geology (YR13 work) and Interpreting the Geological Record (YR14 work).		
3	<b>Geological Applications</b>	2hrs	35
	This paper assesses content covered in Geological Themes (YR14 work).		

### Careers in Geology

Each year a large proportion of the A-Level class decide to pursue Geology at university. Careers using Geology include: Environmental Science, Geophysics, Hydrogeology, Disaster Management, Mining, Petroleum exploration and extraction, Volcanology, Seismology, Forensic Geology, the list is endless! Past pupils who have studied Geology at university are now working for geological companies (or their own) in all four corners of the world!