



Wirral Grammar School for Boys 6th Y11 A-level Options 2022.

FAQ Information Sheet for: *GEOLOGY*

Dear students,

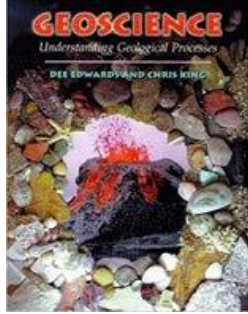
Please refer to information and watch the video prepared by the department. These resources will allow you to gain an insight into studying this subject at A level. These are available [here](#):

The WGSB6 Prospectus can also be viewed online [here](#). Careful consideration of these resources will assist you in making the appropriate subject choices for you.

You are advised to consider this material **before** you attend the marketplace activities in January 2023.

FAQ:	Response:
What is Geology? Isn't that just rocks?	<p>As a science, Geology is generally the study of the Earth. We look at the physical, chemical and biological processes which occur on and within our planet (and other planets) to draw conclusions about its past, present and future.</p> <p>We get a lot of our evidence for these processes from rocks which means <i>yes</i> – we'll look at rocks but <i>no</i> - it's not <i>just</i> rocks! We'll use the evidence to explore themes such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How the Earth formed and continues to change due to plate tectonics• Geohazards like volcanoes and earthquakes• Minerals and other important natural resources and sources of energy• Fossils and changing environments• Rock mechanics and engineering• Fieldwork and practical observations
Why should I study Geology? What further education and career	<p>Many of the most prestigious universities in the UK and internationally have a long and proud history of offering courses in Earth Sciences and its many pathways – including areas like Geology, Geophysics, Planetary Sciences, Geodesy & Remote Sensing, Geoengineering, Environmental Science & Sustainability. Geology therefore opens up a wealth of possibility into study and employment opportunities which deal with humans and the world around us.</p>

<p>opportunities are there?</p>	<p>Studying Geology has traditionally been a pathway into oil and gas sectors, but times have changed a lot and the demand for good Geologists continues to grow. As we head towards a renewable energy future, the demand for metals from mineral ores is growing at an incredible rate; much faster than the number of Geology graduates. In fact, the UK government specifically names “<i>geophysicist, geoscientist, geologist, geochemist</i>” on their list of “shortage occupations” for skilled workers.</p> <p>We need Geologists to help us meet our energy, water and land-use needs, and to help solve geohazard and climate change related problems through geo-engineering, research and risk management. You may not know that engineering projects require Geologists to assess and model the mechanics of the ground, offering potential solutions in complex situations in order to ensure structural work will be safe and secure.</p> <p>Even if you decide not to pursue Earth Sciences further, you will develop an array of transferrable skills in scientific theory, particularly aspects of Physics, Biology and Chemistry, which makes the subject a great 3rd option accompaniment to sciences/maths. Geology helps you to build an appreciation for the “<i>big picture</i>” – looking at how processes interact in order to analyse a situation and find potential solutions to problems.</p>
<p>How is Geology different from Geography?</p>	<p>As a science A Level, Geology involves describing and understanding scientific processes, interpreting evidence and applying our knowledge to solve the problems facing society and the planet. Students will develop practical, fieldwork and mathematical skills (though A Level Maths is not required). We don’t do essays or coursework (see section on assessment, below).</p> <p>Geography is considered more of a humanities subject and, therefore, deals more with how humans and societies interact with one another and landscapes, water and atmosphere. As Geologists we focus more on the <i>solid Earth</i> and the factors which <i>cause</i> changes in climate, landscape and population.</p> <p>Since Geology and Geography are both concerned with the planet, however, there is some overlap (particularly with the <i>physical</i> side of Geography).</p>
<p>Will there be fieldwork and do I have to do it?</p>	<p>Yes and yes. There is a minimum requirement for you to complete 4 days of fieldwork. This has always been one of the most enjoyable aspects of the course. Geology should be accessible to all, however, so if you have specific needs relating to mobility or practical work, we’ll endeavour to adapt these aspects of the course for you.</p>
<p>Which exam board are we using and how is it assessed?</p>	<p>We’re following the Eduqas (the English brand of the Welsh board WJEC). You can find the specification on their website.</p> <p>The course is assessed through 3 exams taken at the end of the A Level course. Like the other science A Levels, there is no coursework, but you will complete several “specified practicals” throughout the course, which your teacher uses to assess your competency in practical skills. At the end of the course you either <i>pass</i> or <i>fail</i> these skills, which appear as an additional note on your certificate.</p>

<p>Is there a revision guide or textbook?</p>	<p>Not an official one for the Eduqas course, but you will receive revision resources from your teacher. There is a very comprehensive online textbook (<i>Exploring Geoscience Across the Globe</i>), which you have free access to.</p> <p>There is a comprehensive textbook for the OCR course, which is very similar in content, but slightly different in order. Relevant content is made available to students through the resources provided.</p> <p>If you want your own copy, the <i>old</i> edition can also be bought relatively cheaply second-hand online. Another option could be <i>Geoscience: Understanding Geological Processes</i>. This is very comprehensive and can be found online for about £3-4 if you want a physical book.</p>	  
<p>Do I need to have studied GCSE to do the A Level course?</p>	<p>No! Having studied GCSE Geology (or Geography) will certainly help you a lot, but the “Fundamental Ideas” of Geology will be revisited in your first year as the content of the course is designed to be accessible to <i>newbies</i>.</p> <p>However, it’s worth asking yourself why you didn’t choose to study the GCSE course if the option was available to you. Are you really interested enough to study the subject for two years...?</p>	
<p>How is the A Level course different from the GCSE course?</p>	<p>The fundamental ideas: <i>minerals, rock-forming processes, tectonics, time and change</i> are still the same, but we explore them in more detail to better understand the scientific processes behind them. With a better understanding of these processes, we can make more detailed interpretations of the Earth’s past and its inner workings, and better appreciate how they impact on human society – e.g. in acquisition of natural resources, geological hazards and engineering scenarios.</p>	
<p>Are there any costs associated with the course?</p>	<p>Transportation to fieldwork sites will inevitably incur costs. It is most likely that school minibuses will be used, with an approximate cost of £5 for each fieldwork day per student to cover fuel and insurance. There is currently no residential fieldwork, but any plans to introduce such a trip would go through a cost estimation and “expression of interest” with parents/guardians before being finalised.</p> <p>As previously mentioned, the purchase of textbooks is not mandatory.</p>	