

Geology

Awarding Body: Students follow the OCR Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced GCE courses.

Course Content and Examination Requirements

Year 12	Year 13
AS Level Units	A2 units leading to full Advanced GCE
Global Tectonics This unit covers earth structure, earthquakes, plate tectonics and geological structures.	Environmental Geology The ethical, social, environmental and technological issues in the use of water, energy resources and metals. Also engineering geology.
Rock – Processes & Products This unit examines the rock cycle and the way in which igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks are formed. Volcanoes, deserts and oceanic environments are studied.	Evolution of Life, Earth and Climate This unit includes fossils and their adaptation to different environment. The evidence which fossils give to evolution, mass extinctions and the dating of rocks, in addition to other dating methods and climate change are also part of this unit.
Practical Skills in Geology 1 This includes a centre based or fieldwork task and an evaluative task.	Practical Skills in Geology 2 This includes a fieldwork and evaluative task.

Comparison with GCSE

Previous knowledge of Geology at GCSE is not necessary.

Practical fieldwork takes place on the Northumberland and local coast and in the Dales. Practical and fieldwork counts for 20% of the assessment, and is therefore compulsory.

Relevance to Further Studies and Careers

Advanced Geology is not essential for entry to a degree course, but the majority of geologists who progress to university have studied the subject to this level. Why study Geology? If you have a fascination for natural events such as earthquakes or volcanic eruptions, if you want to know why dinosaurs died out, or if you like shiny or bright coloured crystals or minerals! There is active recruitment at present in the oil and mining industries due to the demand for fuels and metals. In addition the search for water supplies means that hydrogeologists are needed. Past students are currently employed in teaching, the oil industry and related environmental fields. Graduates often work in laboratories and research and they possess skills which are transferable to a range of occupations eg. Archaeologists, Forensic Scientists, Environmental Scientists. Geology is a science subject which meets the admissions requirements for courses at degree level, including Biomedical Science, Chemistry and Biology. Geology also links well with Physics as geophysicists are always in demand. The department has links with the geology department of Durham University.

Further Information: Mrs J. Charlton