

Geology



Why choose Geology?

Geology allows you to study the nature of the Earth and how it, and its resources, were formed and modified over 4,600 million years of the earth's history.

- Small class sizes
- Experienced teachers
- Good value-added examination results
- Quality fieldwork -visit to the limestone caves Castleton, Anglesey, Wrekin and local sites.
- Coursework based on fieldwork, optional in Year 12, two pieces in Year 13.
- Good grounding to study Earth Science or other Sciences at university
- Strong links with geology departments at Liverpool,

AS Geology Course Details

AS Geology allows you to develop investigative skills, both subject specific and transferable. 3 units studied for AS.

GL1 unit and GL2 unit deals with

- The structure of the Earth and its composition, plate tectonics.
- Identification and formation of mineral e.g. galena our local lead ore mined at Loggerheads and Halkyn, and rocks e.g. limestones.
- Rock deformation – folding of rocks e.g. Great Orme, or faulting of rocks causing earthquakes e.g. Holt.
- Fossils – investigating hard body parts and mode of life.
- Mapwork –assessed in GL2 Practical Paper

GL3 unit deals with

- Natural hazards and assessing hazard and risk based on the evidence from individual case studies.
- Engineering geology – why some slopes are stable while others fail.
- Where you would build a road/tunnel.
- Where you would site housing.
- The effect of human activity on groundwater – pollution

Examination Details

GL1	1 hour	35%	four data response questions
GL2	1.5 hours	30%	Internal Assessment - Practical Paper or Report on a Field Investigation
GL3	1.25 hours	35%	two data response questions plus essay

Departmental information

Ray Humphreys - Curriculum team Leader, GL4 examiner (A2 practical paper),
Coursework moderator for AS and GCSE

Is it for You ?

Geologists research and utilise natural resources while exploring conservation and misuse of the environment. A geologist investigates the past to find out about the future. They collect information from areas of science, geography and maths; they then interpret this information to piece together the evidence to enable us to establish the story of the planet – we are detectives!

Geologists are needed in everyday life. The police use geologists to study dirt on car tyres or footwear from scenes of crimes. Geological techniques are used by others eg. archaeologists in Time Team.

Student Comments

‘I really enjoy Geology. I am fascinated to learn about processes in the physical environment. It is a key subject in today’s world and I hope to go on to study it at university’

- Tom Bentley, current student

‘There is a friendly environment with plenty of assistance to help me do well - some classic ways to help me remember terms’

- Hannah Brennen and Sinead Chamberlain, current students

‘Lots of new terms to learn originally, but then it gets easier as we use them over and over again’

- Josh Hughes, first year Exploration Geology student at Cardiff